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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

SEPTEMBER 18th, 1980 ★ VOLUME 15, NUMBER 38

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EDITORIAL

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 15, Number 38 **September 18th, 1980**

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About the Cover—

Party boat anglers are in the midst of another great season on the Patchogue "Outer Banks." For a closer look at this fishing, see Herb Buch's article beginning on page 16 of this issue.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **FALL FLOUNDER**

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
Al Ristori — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett — NEW JERSEY EDITION
W. A. Muller — MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller — ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman — NEW ENGLAND EDITION
Fred Golofaro — EDITOR
Rich Reina — PRODUCTION MANAGER

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Pass It On...

L.I. FISHING INDUSTRY PROTECTED BY FOUR JOHNSON-SPONSORED LAWS

All four of the bills developed by State Senator Owen H. Johnson's Subcommittee on the Long Island Marine District have recently been signed into law, according to the Governor's office. Senator Johnson's marine bills were the subject of a well-attended hearing he conducted in mid-winter. The consensus of opinion expressed at that hearing favored the bills.

Chapter **225** (Senator Johnson's bill S 4177-B) deals with shellfishing and should make it easier to understand and comply with various sections of the law dealing with shellfishing. It also sets a new size limit for Atlantic Ocean surf clams at four inches, which makes the state limit consistent with the Federal size limit.

Chapter **310** (Senator Johnson's bill S 4801) clarifies the present law prohibiting netting operations in Jones Inlet and Fire Island Inlet and establishes the definition of the netting ban's inland boundary.

Chapter **384** (Senator Johnson's bill S 8206) recodifies several sections of EnCon Law and states that gillnetting is prohibited in Western Long Island Sound from the west boundary of Brookhaven Town and in any of the Sound's adjacent bays, harbors, or other waters forming a part of that body of water.

Chapter **728** (Senator Johnson's bill S 4878-C) bans the use of otter trawls in the Great South Bay, Moriches Bay, and Shinnecock Bay. The use of otter trawls depletes spawning fish stocks and increases the likelihood of spreading harmful viral outbreaks. Neighboring states of Massachusetts and Connecticut have similar bans on the use of otter trawls.

Senator Johnson (R-C, 4th S.D.), whose district borders the Great South Bay, will continue his efforts to help the fishing/tourism economy in the area by means of further beneficial changes in the Environmental Conservation Law in the next session.

DAILY CATCH RATE INCREASED FOR GIANT BLUEFIN TUNA

A change in the daily catch rate of giant Atlantic bluefin tuna effective September 13, from two fish per day to four fish per day per vessel has been announced by Allen E. Peterson, Jr., Northeast Regional Director of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service.

The Atlantic bluefin tuna regulations for 1980 allow for variable catch rates in the general category in the Northern Area depending on the

percentage of the quota caught within certain time periods. A review of the dealer and buy boat landing reports indicates that the total catch of giant Atlantic bluefin tuna is approximately 800 fish, less than sixty percent of the general category quota.

This daily catch rate shall remain in effect for the remainder of the 1980 season or until the quota of 2400 Atlantic giant bluefin tuna is reached.

The change in the daily catch rate for giant Atlantic bluefin tuna does not apply to those vessels registered in the charter and harpoon boat categories in the Northern Area, or those vessels permitted to take giant Atlantic bluefin tuna in the Southern Area with gear other than purse seines.

NATIONAL HUNTING & FISHING DAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Manhasset Bay Sportsmen's Club will join other sporting and conservation groups throughout the 50 states in observing National Hunting and Fishing Day on Saturday, September 27. The club will hold an open house, to which all are invited from 3PM to 6PM, with exhibits on fishing, hunting, and conservation. Club members with dozens of years of experience on the waters and in the field will demonstrate equipment and answer questions about bottom fishing, bass rigs, bluefish tackle, making lures, fly casting, fish tagging, about archery, about gun maintenance and safety, antique and modern waterfowling guns, and other sporting topics. Other club members will be ready to discuss ecological problems such as threats to our bays and wetlands and dangers to whole species such as striped bass.

The theme of this ninth annual Hunting and Fishing Day is "Helping Ensure the Future"—a healthy future for hunting and fishing sports and for our whole environment. This theme matches purposes for which Manhasset Bay Sportsmen's Club has been working since it was founded in 1945. At anniversary observances, the club can look back on 35 years of working for our sportsmen, our community, and our environment. Through the open house, the club hopes to remind people that historically sportsmen have been leaders in protecting wildlife and their habitat. Currently, United States sportsmen contribute $500,000,000 ($1,370,000 a day) for conservation programs. It is urgent for all concerned citizens to join with sportsmen to continue and expand programs that will ensure our future. In the long view, the habitat of game is the environment in which all of us live.

President Michael Trinchitella and all members of M.B.S.C. cordially invite their neighbors around Manhasset Bay to the open house on Sept. 27 at the club headquarters at 36 Matinecock Avenue, on Manhasset Isle, from 3 to 6 in the afternoon. Children are welcome as long as they are accompanied by adults.

For more information, call Wade Denning, National Hunting and Fishing Day Committee Chairman, Des Case, Conservation Chairman, or Loring Batten, Publications chairman: 516-883-9689.

LOWER BAY ANGLERS FLUKE TRIP RESULTS

Members of the Lower Bay Anglers had a good day fluke fishing aboard the Sheepshead Bay Zephyr. Squid and sand eel combos or bucktails with squid strips brought 22 fish over the rail. Joe Cosentino picked up the biggest fluke, a 4½ lber. Not bad for sleeping half the day. This was a Club-funded trip with no cost to members.

Lower Bay Anglers is planning an October Open House, as well as a Fall, Club-funded bluefishing trip. The Open House is limited to 100 persons and will be directed towards striped bass, featuring two films and a noted speaker.

For more information call Bill McCormick, Sr. in the evenings, 212-680-5444 or Marty Gazzani, AM, 212-238-2636.

"CLAWS"

The Marine Environmental Council (MECLI) is sponsoring a crab contest to find the largest blue claw crab caught in Long Island waters. After catching your crab, save the top shell and measure from side point to side point. The contest is open to everyone.

Send in your name and address and the size of your crab by October 1st. Save the shell for verification. The top three winners will receive a one-year subscription to the "New York State Conservationist" magazine and a MECLI T-shirt. All entries will be mailed a 1980 Year of the Coast button.

Entries are to be sent to MECLI, P. O. Box 55, Seaford, Long Island 11783.

ATTENTION

Would Kenneth Preston please contact Linda at The Fisherman, 516-725-4200, ext. 16.

BOATING

BOATING COURSE

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 1-7 announces the start of their 12-week Boating Safety and Seamanship Course, September 25, 7:30 p.m. in the Port-O-Call Building at the foot of Foster Ave., Sayville, N.Y. The course is open to all; you do not need to own a boat.

For further information, call Jim Smith, 516-589-1587.

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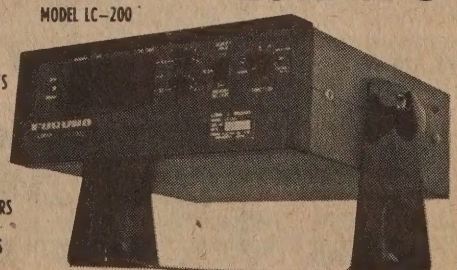

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NATIONAL SCENE
with Al Ristori

MORE SURVEY RESULTS

More detailed, but still preliminary, results from the November, 1978-October, 1979 Marine Recreational Fisheries Survey casts a slightly different light on the figures provided in this column several weeks ago. The overall figures for the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts indicated that porgies were the number one sport species in terms of numbers. However, a breakdown of these results for just the North and Mid-Atlantic sub regions tells quite a different story. The catch of porgies (scup) in our region was only 8,000,000, which puts that species behind several others. Tied for the lead in the northeast are bluefish and winter flounder with 20,000,000 each. Close behind are summer flounders (fluke) with 16,000,000. Next comes a small, but very popular, species common in the Chesapeake: the spot. That tasty little fish shows up in local waters some summers, where it's known as the lafayette. Porgies are the fifth most abundant species, and all the others are quite a bit behind.

Mackerel and weakfish are tied at 4,000,000 each, while cod, sea robins and tautog (blackfish) check in at 3,000,000. Sea bass, croakers and pollack account for 2,000,000 each, and striped bass barely make it into the major species with 1,000,000.

According to these figures, the area from Virginia north produces 20 of the 24 million bluefish caught on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, and 20 of the 21 million winter flounder. Actually, winter flounder are rare below Delaware and I don't have any idea where that extra million winter flounder could come from! This area also accounts for 16 of the 19 million summer flounders, but only 8 of the 30 million porgies.

Comparing these figures with past surveys is a risky business, since the methodology is quite different. However, for what it's worth, the total catch for the North and Mid-Atlantic has shown a steady decline. In 1970, it was estimated at 214 million. By 1974 it was down to 139 million, and the latest survey totals only 121 million. The biggest drop was recorded in Atlantic mackerel. They slid from 52 million in 1970 to 10 million in 1974 and just 4 million in 1978-1979. However, the 1980 spring run indicates that this species is finally staging a comeback from the problems created by the foreign fleets.

Winter flounder have also dropped off from the 29 million recorded in 1970. However, after dropping to 17 million in 1974, they're back up to 20 million in the latest survey. The '78-'79 catch of 20 million bluefish is also below the 23 million of 1970 and 28 million of 1974. The sea bass catch is only half of the 4 million taken in 1970 and even sea robins have declined from 8 million to 3 million. If the old surveys are to be believed, weakfish hit their recent peak with 10 million in 1970, and have since fallen off to 6 million in 1974 and 4 million in '78-'79. Croakers dropped steadily from 5 million in 1970, to 3 million in 1974 and 2 million in '78-'79. Our Chesapeake friends are also hurting in the spot department. From 33 million in 1970, that species declined to 6 million in 1974—though it's recovered to 9 million as of the '78-'79 survey.

The most precipitous decline has occurred (to no one's surprise) in striped bass. From 14 million in 1970, that species dropped to 7 million in 1974 and just 1 million in the latest results. On the other hand, porgies have shown steady improvement from the low levels of a decade ago. The present figure doubles the 4 million caught in 1970. Pollack have dropped off from 3 to 2 million during the decade, but the latest figures look pretty good when compared to the 1974 catch that didn't even reach the 1 million mark. Fluke have held steady over the decade. Starting at 13 million in 1970, they hit 16 million in 1974 and remained at that level in '78-'79.

A breakdown of how and where the fish were caught in the Mid-Atlantic region indicates that private or rented boats account for most of the catch: 56 out of 82 million. They have a huge advantage over party and charter boats in sounds, rivers and bay (45-3) and in the ocean within three miles (6-1). However, outside of three miles, it's an even split—5 million each. Beach and bank anglers account for 2 million fish in interior waters and 6 million in the surf. Those fishing from man-made structures (bridges, piers) account for seven million fish in the bays and two million in the ocean. A good part of the spot catch is probably taken in such fashion.

Though the 1970 figures aren't available on a state by state basis, a comparison of the latest results with 1974 indicates that New York hasn't done too badly, but that New Jersey has taken a real beating. The decline in New York was from 37 to 33 million, but New Jersey's catch was halved from 30-15 million. Connecticut dropped from 11-8 million, but Delaware held its own at 3 million, and both Rhode Island and Massachusetts actually gained. Rhode Island jumped from four to seven million, while Massachusetts increased from 15 to 22 million. Further down the coast, Florida was a big gainer over a 1975 regional survey, with her catch jumping from 69 to 103 million. Texas also recorded a good gain from 25 to 36 million. While the northern catch was declining, the overall southern catch (N.C. to Texas) was up from 159 million to 187 million.

As previously noted, all of these figures have to be taken with a grain of salt. It's very difficult to selectively interview fishermen and determine from their catches what the total catch for the year has been. Fishing has so many ups and downs that the reliability of these surveys has always been in question. The latest survey is supposed to have been more precise than any of its predecessors, but its figures are still questionable. Nevertheless, the Councils now have "something" to work with that will probably stand up in court, and the continuance of these surveys (using the same methodology) will provide us with a good insight into trends in abundance and changing fishing patterns.

Japanese Had Good Tuna Fishing in July

According to the NMFS Southeast Observer News, five Japanese longliners enjoyed good tuna fishing during July in the area from 100 miles east of Delaware to 85 miles south of Nantucket. The tuna catch totaled 3713, with bigeye (50%) and yellowfin (22%) dominating. Less than 200 billfish were caught, with swordfish constituting the vast majority. Unfortunately, over 70% came up dead. On the other hand, while over 600 sharks were captured, there was a mortality rate of less than 10%.

Objection To New Tuna Fishery Made Clear

The following is a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Allen Peterson, Regional Director, Northeast Region of NMFS stating my objection to the creation of an American longline fishery for giant bluefin tuna.

"Dear Allen: Recently received notice of the August 20 scoping meeting on the possibility of American longlining of giant bluefin tuna in the Gulf of Mexico. Unfortunately, I was unable to make the meeting on short notice, but would appreciate a copy of the minutes as soon as they are available.

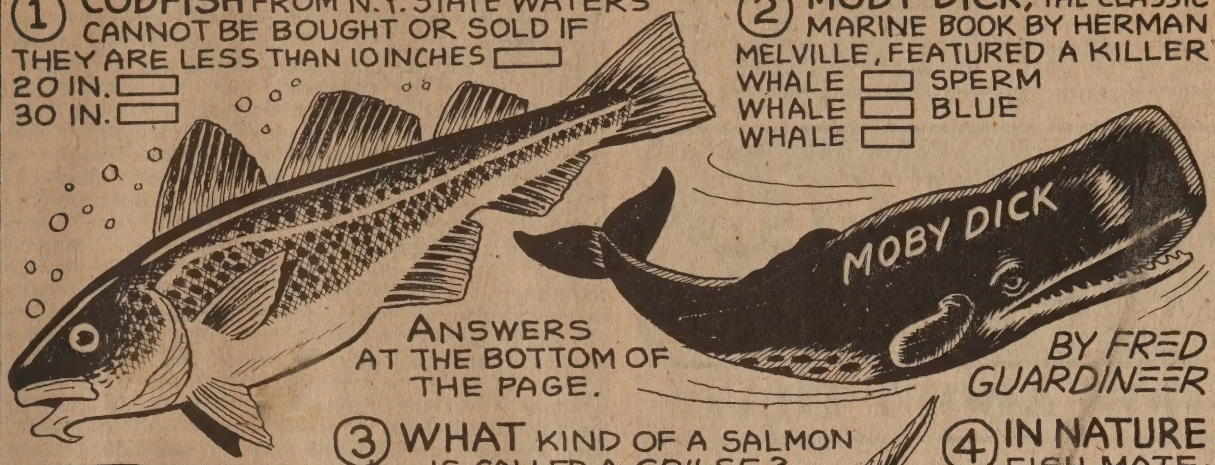
An upcoming column in The Long Island Fisherman will detail my feelings on this subject. However, in order to be on record at this time, I want to state my objection to the start of any new fishery on bluefin tuna at this time. It's perfectly obvious that the intensive Japanese fishery on giant bluefins in the Gulf of Mexico each spring, plus the East Coast purse seine fishery on school tuna, has negated the conservation restrictions imposed on handgear fishermen. Giant tuna have become progressively harder to catch and, unless something dramatic occurs in the next couple of months, this year will go down in

(Continued on page 13.)

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

(1) **CODFISH** FROM N.Y. STATE WATERS CANNOT BE BOUGHT OR SOLD IF THEY ARE LESS THAN 10 INCHES ☐
20 IN. ☐
30 IN. ☐

(2) **"MOBY DICK,"** THE CLASSIC MARINE BOOK BY HERMAN MELVILLE, FEATURED A KILLER
WHALE ☐ SPERM
WHALE ☐ BLUE
WHALE ☐



ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

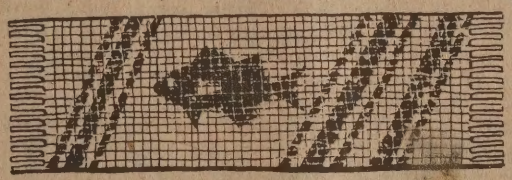
BY FRED GUARDINEER

(3) **WHAT** KIND OF A SALMON IS CALLED A *GRILSE*?

(4) **IN NATURE** FISH MATE ONLY WITH MEMBERS OF THEIR OWN SPECIES.
TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

RAINBOW

(5) **WHICH** SPECIES OF SHELLS DID NORTH AMERICAN ATLANTIC COAST INDIANS USE TO MAKE WAMPUM, A READER ASKS?



CUTTHROAT

(6) **SHARKS** MUST MOVE CONSTANTLY IN ORDER TO LIVE.
TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

1 - 10 INCHES. 2 - SPERM WHALE. 3 - A GRILSE IS A SMALL SALMON THAT RETURNS AFTER ONLY ONE WINTER AT SEA INSTEAD OF THE USUAL TWO OR THREE. 4 - FALSE. SOME NATURAL CROSSBREEDING OCCURS AS WITH THE RAINBOW/CUTTHROAT TROUT CROSS. 5 - HARD CLAM OR QUAHOG. 6 - TRUE. SHARKS LACK MOVABLE GILL OPENINGS AND SWIM BLADDERS. TO STOP THEY MUST REST ON THE BOTTOM WITH THE CURRENT SUPPLYING OXYGEN.

REMEMBER? How many of you old salts remember Mel Allen, the voice of the Yankees, from a by-gone time. If you recall, Mel was all-Yankee in a time when all sports announcers were supposed to be totally objective. So although Mel no longer announces for the Yanks on a regular basis, he would fit in perfectly today. In addition to being a total pro, Mel would use the classic phrase "How about that!" when a great play was made or a home run hit. Well, in this week's column we'd like to borrow that phrase (hope you don't mind, Mel) as a lead-in

FISH TALK
with William A. Muller

HOW ABOUT THAT!

to several "How About That" letters from readers.

FOR EXAMPLE! Take the letter from Mike Mokrzychi of Maspeth. "I honestly don't expect you to believe this, but it's true. The scene is Captree State Park, shortly after sunrise on a fairly chilly morning in early May. My friend Stan and I are going for flounder off the pier on the State Channel side. We are at the tip of the pier. We make a cast. While I drag in some seaweed, Stan seems to be snagged. However, whatever he has snagged he is dragging to the shore slowly. We expect a record lump of seaweed—but no! I swear to you, it was a gigantic crab. It was at least three feet across (and that's a conservative estimate). It looked like a huge fiddler crab with its claws drawn in close to its gruesome body. Don't laugh; I'm not kidding! This creature was a pale green—the color of old pea soup. We tried to lift the crab out of the water but the line was no match for the weight of the crab. The folks at the bait station couldn't help us to identify this crab and I thought perhaps you could. Have you ever heard of a huge pea soup colored crab in Great South Bay, or elsewhere? Could this have been a missing link?" No, Mike, we won't laugh. There are more strange creatures in the sea than any of us can imagine. It is hard to identify any plant or animal that is described to us without being there to note peculiar characteristics that might give its identity away. However, we can make a very good guess about what general group such a beast might belong to. There is a group of crabs that grow quite large, are not very abundant, and are usually rather ugly in appearance. These are rock crabs and they come in a wide variety of colors from rusty brown, to sand color, to pea soup green. Although fishermen come across such beasts from time to time, it is not an every day event simply because there aren't that many of them. When we were making an ecology film for the National Science Foundation about ten years ago, we stumbled upon a genuinely ugly rust colored rock crab. It made for great film footage.

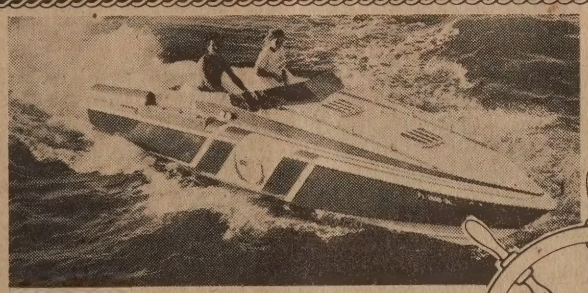
HOW ABOUT THIS SHARK STORY? Jim Curto of Patchogue writes: "Recently, while shark fishing, I happened to see a blue shark with a remora swimming lazily in and out of the shark's gills. This puzzled me and as we pulled in close, I noticed another boat with cameras and other underwater equipment on board in the vicinity too. As it turned out, there were some underwater biologists on board, so I called to them to ask if they saw what I saw. They replied that a remora can't do that. So much for the open mind of science. I did some reading on the subject and I found a few references that indicated that remoras can clean the outside of a shark's gills, but it isn't capable of entering and exiting the gills. Is it possible that a remora can only do this with a blue shark?" Well how about that! Your observation is the first I have ever heard of such a possible phenomena. Of course, I don't doubt your word. You were there and I wasn't. However, I must say that I have never seen any description of such behavior and I haven't seen it myself. You made a sarcastic reference to the open mind of science and I'll agree that sometimes scientists can forget the creed that should guide them, in favor of a closed-mind approach. However, often there are things that are so unlikely as to push you into a false sense of security. Thus, a scientist may answer in an abrupt and perhaps closed-minded way. Although I do not dismiss the possibility that this remora was swimming in and out of the shark's gills, I do believe that I have another explanation that may fit this situation if you think about it. When you observe things through the water, distances, shapes, and details are often distorted. That is because the density of water and air are different. When light moves from one media at one density into another of a different density, it is bent. Thus, it may be possible that as you observed this shark and its companion, the remora darted under the shark, re-appearing on the other side and then came back again. The combination of the shade thrown by the bulk of the shark, the natural coloration of the fish, and the bending of light could have made it appear that the remora was swimming in and out of the gills of the shark. Considering that scientists were on the scene, I'm sure that they would have been able to observe the event if it was indeed taking place. Now, I don't want you to be discouraged by this, because I wasn't there and I could be wrong. However, scientific observation is a very tricky thing and that's why scientists have developed electronics to help us. The instruments can't be fooled by other factors. They record only what is there. Thus, if such a behavior is possible between blue sharks and remoras, sooner or later someone will observe it and document it. Both you and I will have to be patient and see if that day comes. Thanks for the letter.

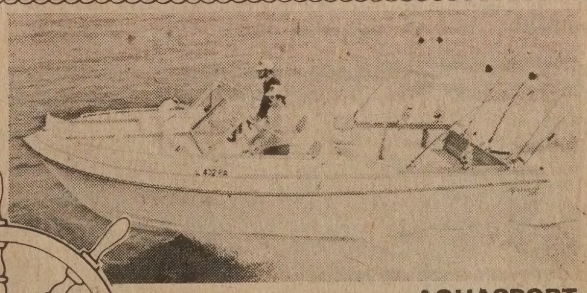
DANCE OF THE WORMS! How about that! Richard Van To Montauk Kincaid from the Bronx writes: "Every spring around mid-March I witness the same phenomena while digging worms or picking mussels. I witness scores of big eight to sixteen inch sandworms wiggling in a holding pattern in calm, shallow water adjacent to wetlands. Some excrete a white milk-like substance. Up to two weeks the activity continues. When it stops, I begin to see many small worms. Were these worms spawning? What's the story? Also, interestingly enough, I have never witnessed blood or tape worms do this 'dance,' although the young of these species appear at about the same time." Most likely you were watching the spawning ritual of the sandworms. Spawning of the species occurs at different times at different places around Long Island because of differences in water temperatures which seem to be the key factor controlling their spawning. In the western Sound where the water heats up early, it will occur in early spring. However, on the East End where water temperatures may stay at springtime levels into the summer, it happens much later. Because all three species you mentioned are worms does not mean that their behaviors are identical. If the species were the same with respect to habits, they would then all be competing for the same ecological niche. Thus, the most fit would survive and the others would become extinct. This is natural law. Therefore, as similar creatures evolve, they adapt slightly differently and thus, they avoid direct competitive confrontation. The worms you mentioned do not have the same feeding habits, life cycles, or spawning habits—just to mention a few characteristics. For example, you'll find many more sandworms in clean muddy sand than in thick mud. If there are lots of shells, some rocks, and gravel, there will be even more sand worms. Blood worms will be more abundant in thick mud and generally, pure sand won't interest them. Thus, although the other species are spawning at about that same time they aren't doing so at the exact same place, the exact same time, or in the exact same way. One of the unique characteristics of the sandworm spawning is that the body wall ruptures to release the eggs and sperm into the water. Thus, the adults will die after the spawning is over. The developing larvae become part of the plankton until their growth and differentiation proceeds. At that time, they settle towards the bottom and will change their form. If they by chance

settle out on suitable bottom, they will have a good chance of survival. However, if the substrate is not suitable, they will die.

FUNNY THING ABOUT EELS! Gerry Kanischak of West Islip notes that eels are tricky to keep alive and wants to know how to solve the problem. "It all started about two-and-a-half years ago when I bought a few eels to fish in the surf for striped bass. I put them in a tank that measured about 30"x12"x12". When the end of the season came, I still had about a half-dozen left. I decided to try to keep them alive over the winter. I hooked up several aerators and a filter. After a couple of weeks one of the eels died and then a few days later another one died. I began feeding them, but they didn't eat. Then one evening I heard a commotion coming from the tank. I saw that one of the eels had grabbed the other and was biting it. Soon some white spots appeared where the bites had been inflicted and shortly after that the eel died. The process repeated as the same eel chased and bit another eel. Again and again the aggressive eel picked on the others until it was the only one left. Was there some kind of pecking order involved? Well, the last eel survived all winter and then he became a sort of pet. He survived another year, but did not eat and as time went by, he became skinnier and skinnier until he was no fatter than a pencil. The spring of the second year I bought some more eels and put them in the tank with the pet. He was the first to go. Well, these experiences have raised a few questions. How long can an eel go without food? Can you tell me if it was a male or female? Why the pecking order behavior? Was this aggressiveness brought on by confinement? Do eels establish territoriality? Is it possible to maintain eels in captivity? How old is a twelve inch eel? At what age or size do they become sexually mature?"

ONE AT A TIME! Your experiences are very interesting and you sure shot me a load of questions. I'll do my best to answer them. Taking it from the top then! How long can an eel go without food? Fish (the eel is a finfish) have the ability to use their tissues as food when starved. That is, they re-absorb themselves and digest themselves. This is a stressful situation and many will die from secondary causes if the starvation is prolonged. Thus, there is no set answer, as you observed in your own experience. The weak go quickly and the strong hang on. Male or female? Can't tell without a dissection. I think you are right in relating their behavior to confinement. As far as I know eels are not territorial and have no pecking order. However, the stress of confinement and competition may have triggered an abnormal behavior—it does in humans! A twelve inch eel is about two-years-old and maybe three. Size also depends upon the sex of the eel. At what stage do they become sexually mature? The life cycle of the eel is about three to five years if left unrestricted. That is, sometimes eels will become landlocked or otherwise impeded from making the migration back to the Sargasso Sea to spawn. If that occurs, they can live to fifty years or more. However, if migration proceeds normally the adults are believed to die after spawning. You can keep eels alive in captivity. However, you'll need a very large tank. Anyone interested in trying should figure on a five hundred to one thousand gallon shallow structure. The water need not be crystal clear, but it should be filtered. The water should be salty and that presents special filter problems since protein wastes and pH shifts are common in saltwater aquariums. They should be fed small pieces of fish or sandworms. The water should be well aerated. If these steps are taken, the eels will usually do very well for prolonged captivity. For short term captivity, almost any receptacle will do as long as it is well aerated and the water changed regularly. No need to worry about using freshwater either when keeping them alive for short periods. Well, good luck with your eel cultivation!





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CEDAR TO THE THUMB

At the mouth of Fire Island Inlet lies a stretch of beach that has long been a source of stimulation for many Long Island surfmen. Bordered by Oak Beach to the east, and Gilgo to the west, Cedar Overlook and its promontory neighbor, the "Sore Thumb," fall under the reign of Babylon Town jurisdiction. In order to obtain a beach vehicle permit, residency in the township is required. This seems to have led to many anglers unnecessarily avoiding this prime piece of real estate. The fact of the matter is, the best way to fish Cedar is by foot. Fortunately, parking in the Cedar Overlook lot is no problem during the times best suited to working this shore. As long as the booth at the lot entrance is not being manned, you need not worry about being hassled. Access is permitted before and after the summer bathing season. Even then, during the hours between 6PM and 8AM when the booths are unmanned, parking is possible. This permits you to fish after dark, which during the summer months, is when you want to be on the beach anyway. The best all-around rod for this area is probably a nine footer although Cedar's character creates situations where a little seven footer or a husky eleven-and-a-half footer might be more appropriate. The middle size stick makes for a happy compromise.

Either baitcasting or spinning gear can be brought into play here.

A husky spinning reel loaded with twelve or fifteen pound test or a mid-size baitcasting reel such as the Ambassadeur 6500 or the Shakespeare 1984, spooled with fifteen or twenty pound test, will permit you to fish anything from a five-and-a-half inch RedFin to a live eel.

Now let's take a look at some of the possibilities this section of the South Shore has to offer. It's about a two mile stretch from the sandbar west of the parking lot to the "Thumb." Although I frequently choose to park in the east end of the lot and work my way down to the Sore Thumb, the beach from the bar to the pavilion certainly warrants attention. This area is the source of many fond memories; particularly of September days when stripers used the sand formations to pocket hordes of mullet during their exodus from Great South Bay. The sight of big stripers walloping popping plugs in a crashing surf fueled by a good nor'easter, lingers long and sweet.

The 'bar, which shifts and changes in the face of storms and heavy currents, was again pretty fishy in '79 after offering little potential the year before. Despite generally poor surf action this past fall, some big bluefish did succumb to live eels here. How this area will shape up for the 1980 season remains to be seen. Providing the holes and sluiceways which offer sanctuary to baitfish are present, spend some time in this area.

Live eels, bunker chunks, mackerel fillets or a glob of clams presented on a fishfinder rig have accounted for many bass and blues.

Tins, such as the J8, can be effective when worked along the bottom of some of the deeper spots. During the summer, big bluefish seem to make an annual visit to the inlet bars. At times, casters tossing popping plugs or tins get a shot at these often teen-size choppers. Mullet-simulating blue poppers, worked along the edge of white water between the holes and shallows, will take stripers here in September.

The pocket that forms just east of the bar is sometimes used by game fish to trap bait. Never pass it by without making a few casts.

As you work east, you will notice the amount of surf rapidly diminishes. This long stretch of sand beach borders what used to be the inlet channel. The drop here is

The west pocket of "The Thumb." A good place to put those big surface swimmers to work.

steep. Short casts of seventy-five to one hundred feet will place your bait or lure in the thirty foot depths of the old channel. I have seen fish taken along this entire length of beach, but there are a couple of spots which seem to produce fish with a certain amount of regularity: one is the area just in front of the dirt parking lots adjoining the east end of the main lot. At one time, a jetty consisting of cement rubble existed here. Quite a few stripers have fallen to bait fished on the bottom at this location.

Moving along, we are now entering the stretch of beach I like best. I have had a lot of success fishing eels along here. While most casters stick to a fishfinder rig and three to five ounces of lead along this piece, I've found that by casting and slowly retrieving an unweighted live eel, you can cover a much greater area. This technique has proven to be far more effective for bass in the fifteen to thirty-five pound range, although it seems the really big fish—high forties and fifties—prefer a stationary bait tight to the bottom. It's no secret that the largest stripers are also the laziest. The cast and walk tactic is also a lot more satisfying than watching a rod in a sand spike all night. If you decide to try the unweighted method, add a feathered teaser a couple of feet ahead of your eel. It will sometimes make the difference in a finicky fish passing up or accepting your slimy offering.

A couple of hundred yards west of the "Thumb," you will find a point which is directly opposite an exposed sandbar. Strong currents are funneled between the two points, creating a very fishy rip that bass, blues, and weaks often frequent. Swimming plugs such as darters, diving Danny's, and loaded RedFins will produce here as will leadheads such as bucktails and whiptails. Baitfishermen should concentrate their efforts on the point around slack-water periods. A better bet for those tossing bait would be to work the coves adjacent to the point. Low water has always provided the most action for me along this stretch of sand.

The pocket which abuts the west corner of the Thumb used to provide a lot of fish in the past. A build-up of sand in this pocket over the last two seasons has noticeably reduced the depth of the cove, but it still warrants a good going over. Bait or plugs are both effective in this relatively quiet piece of water.

Working our way up onto the thumb itself, we come to a spot that has long been a favorite "ace in the hole" for me. Walking from the sand beach out onto the pile of rubble, you will find two rocky points jutting out into the pocket. Surface swimmers like the Jr. Atom, Atom 40, and Danny are put into play here. Very few surfmen are aware of the potential of these two promontories and most drive or walk right on past in their haste to reach the more popular east side. I have taken a number of fine stripers here in broad daylight while a dozen or so other casters shot the breeze not more than one hundred yards away. The ideal situation here is to get on the second point with the current moving hard to the left and the tide at least half-way up. You will find that at high water, the current will still be boiling past the point. A turbulent rip forms here and is made even more appealing when a southeast wind confronts the easterly flow. During September, mullet get caught in the cauldron of white water as they try to move around the perimeter of the "Thumb." Blue swimmers, lobbed forty or fifty feet out from the rocks and permitted to swing and work in the rip, are irresistible to bass lying in ambush behind submerged boulders.

It is worth noting that, except when a big heave is rolling across the inlet bars, only hip boots are required to fish the stretch from the pavilion to the Thumb. They will make walking a whole lot easier than if wearing a cumbersome pair of chest high waders.

Cedar Beach is situated so that it can easily be fished in conjunction with a number of other favorite surf spots. Among them, Robert Moses State Park, Gilgo, Tobay, and Jones Beach State Park. All are within one-half hour ride of each other thanks to the convenience of Ocean Parkway.

If you find yourself traveling this section of South Shore waterfront, it might pay for you to look in on the "Overlook." You, too, may find yourself among the Cedar Beach faithful!

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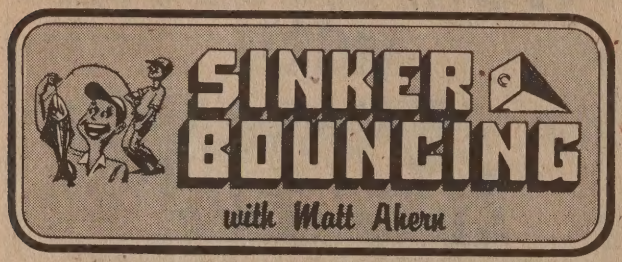
Of three wreck fishing attempts for big fluke made during the late summer of 1978, Artie Leidecker and I struck pay dirt only once with two doormats. One was a fair six pounder and the other an ounce or two above seven pounds; not true doormats, perhaps, but good fish at any time—yet not what we expected for specialized offshore wreck fishing. Our first trip was made in mid-August and the second on a coolish day in early September. Both these trips resulted in the big zip. Then



WRECK FISHING FOR DOORMAT FLUKE

on September 17, we managed those two fluke, which were both caught by Artie. Oh, well, that's the way it goes sometimes...sour grapes and all that.

All in all, I guess one could say our 1978 doormat wreck fishing left much to be desired.

Last year we tried in mid-August, and again no luck. I figured that's it: enough is enough. I didn't need a brick wall to fall on me. I returned to inlet fluke fishing and left Artie to his own devices.

But not for long.

One evening during the first week of September, Artie called. "I met this guy—Sam—who's a real wreck fishng nut. Says he's got a piece of wreckage off Jones Beach that produces doormats in mid-September. If the weather holds, we're going out on the eighteenth. You're invited. Okay. Be on the Echo at 3AM. This guy's a real early bird."

Ordinarily I'm wary of tales about good fishing opportunities, especially when coming from unknown sources; but in this instance, I wasn't too concerned. I knew Artie wouldn't have called had he thought our chances of connecting were less than fair. I was happy enough with the deal. Maybe this time we'd do ourselves some good. I was also anxious to meet Artie's new-found friend, for I had good thoughts about the gentleman. Any fisherman who considers 3AM a good time to start the day is my kind of guy.

I arrived at dockside well before three and got quite a surprise. We weren't going out on Artie's "Echo" as I had supposed, and Artie's friend, Sam Goldman, a retired dentist, was pushing eighty years of age. Now, there's nothing wrong with being that age, of course, yet for no particular reason, I had pictured Sam as being at most fifty, but not over that.

My good thoughts about Sam Goldman still held, though. I could tell from the way he handled himself that this fisherman was the real goods. Nor was there anything "old" about Sam as we have come to accept the term. Spry as a man fifteen to twenty years his junior would be a better description...which, as Artie said later, was another plus for the fishing game.

Sam shook hands warmly and affectionately thumped my shoulder. "Artie tells me you boys haven't been doing too well with the doormats." Before I could reply, he continued on. "Bring your gear over to my boat. We'll have a quick cup of coffee and then we'll be on our way."

Sam's boat, the Aurora, lay several berths beyond Artie's thirty foot Echo, and while somewhat shorter than Echo, the Aurora, despite the gloom, gave the appearance of a well-kept, able craft. "My son Seth and the grandchildren take care of her for me," Sam explained with glowing pride as he showed me around. He halted a moment and patted the combing around the low stern rail. "We two have been together a long time. Give her good weather and she'll take us anywhere."

Ah...the love of a dedicated fisherman for a good boat. Nothing in the fishing game can approach it. Nothing.

Later, as we stood in the stern sipping our coffee, Sam informed us that the piece of bottom he expected to fish contained the wreckage of a Navy jet which had been ditched in the sea by its test pilot some years ago when its engine failed. "Pretty good doormat fishing sometimes," Sam said. "Got a twelve pounder off it five years ago. Good sea bass fishing in summer, too. And," he glanced in Artie's direction "...cod in December. Seth got a twenty pounder last winter." He took a sip of coffee. "I like to fish it because it's small—although sometimes party boats beat me to it. That's why I want to leave early—there's only room for one boat on it."

This was hint enough to stop the gab-fest and short minutes later Sam's pride and joy was pushing through the dark water of Reynolds Channel, headed for Jones Inlet. The damp early-morning air held a hint of fall, but the faint southwest ripple promised a warmish day. As Sam said as we approached the outside bell buoy: "So far, so good." And so far so good it was, for as we entered the dark sea, we found only a slight heave from the southwest, but certainly nothing to be concerned about even in the Aurora.

I have always found the sea mysterious and brooding during the dark hours. To me it has always been a mellowing experience, for truly I then feel we are intruders upon another world, one seemingly far removed from our planet. And because of this, I am often transported into a world filled with the nostalgia of long gone days; days shared with good buddies, plus an influx of crushing and overwhelming sentimentality over which I have no control. Now Artie, on the other hand (with whom I've been fishing sixty years), says those dark hours affect him not at all. He desires only that they pass quickly so that he can get to his fishing. I can understand that, of course. But there never breathed a fisherman of Irish blood who was not enthralled by the sea.

As we rounded the bell buoy, Sam set our course. The bluish light from the binnacle revealed we were on a 120° heading, and there Sam held it with, he said, enough speed to coincide our destination arrival with the coming of daylight. With the Chrysler inboard emitting a low purr of satisfaction, I felt this was a good opportunity to question Sam as to his fishing experience. Not a bit surprised, I found it was great, covering many, many years of South Shore fishing.

Sam, as do many from the old school, shunned today's ease of electronics. Shore ranges were good enough for him. All he needed, he said, was a dependable compass, a good pair of binoculars, and a reliable timepiece, and with these he could put us over any piece of bottom with which he was familiar. "I don't care to give up the old ways," he said by way of explanation. Sam, my good friend, I knew right from the beginning you were my kind of fisherman.

As we continued on, my thoughts drifted to bait, for doormat fluke can be pretty fussy; but when I checked with Artie, he told me not to worry, for Sam had taken care of it. But what kind of bait it was we didn't know until, at the first blush of daylight in the eastern sky, Sam told us to reach into the cooler and bring forth the sealed wax-paper package. Smelt. Extra-large smelt. Smelt which I knew had never seen the inside of a freezer. "A friend of mine has a wholesale fish business," Sam told us. "I get whatever I want...the best. A good friend for a doormat fisherman to have. Yes?" Yes, indeed, Sam.

As dawn approached, the sea gradually changed from indigo to gray, then to that peculiar shade of pearl-blue which heralds the coming of fair weather—a shade familiar to all observant fishermen. "We'll get some wind this afternoon, maybe," Sam said, calling attention to the feathery clouds hugging the eastern horizon, "but if we're lucky, we'll be long gone by then. So let's not worry about it, boys. We've picked a good day."

And on that happy note, I checked over my rigging, looking for nick and chafe marks which might possibly bring disaster at a crucial moment. I didn't discover any, but doing this is a good habit to cultivate. It's tough

enough most times to connect with a large fluke and there's absolutely no point in not coppering all bets.

Those fellows reading this column faithfully know I'm a stickler for using 4/0 regular-shanked Sproat hooks for fluke. But not when purposely fishing for doormats. This is where I bring out the heavy artillery. Bank sinker weight will vary between six and eight ounces, depending upon whether fishing is being done at anchor over a wreck or drifting along its outer edges. But the exact weight isn't too important, for it is a simple matter to change over if necessary.

But how you rig is most important. For this fishing, I use a three foot, forty pound test leader to which has been snelled a 6/0 Carlisle hook. This is attached directly to the thirty pound test main line three inches or so above the sinker, using a double-overhand knot to form a one inch loop. Some fellows use a 4/0 three-way swivel instead of the loop. I don't—except under difficult drifting conditions: strong tide, wind, etc. And I never forget the old-timer's adage: the less hardware, the better. No pretty beads, spinner, or whirling blades, or anything of that ilk. Keep it simple and catch fish has long been my motto.

Sam's rig, I noticed, was identical—with but one exception. His 6/0 Carlisle contained a keeper hook soldered in just below the eye. This was a regular-shanked 1/0 Sproat. "Better bait presentation," he said, which, of course, is true enough.

It was full daylight when we arrived at the wreck site, but not yet sunup. Sam had gauged our arrival time perfectly. It was his intention to drift the outer edges of the wreck until action came our way. Artie was elected to take care of the sash-weighted marker buoy, while I had nothing to do but watch Sam take his shore ranges.

I busied myself elsewhere, however, for I had no intention of being tempted into taking my own ranges. Doing this, I felt, would be violating a confidence. Had Sam wanted Artie and I to know the wreck's exact location, I'm sure he would have offered the information.

I knew Artie felt as I did, for he stood with his back to the shore line, buoy clasped in his hands, ready to toss it overhead and out at Sam's signal. It took several minutes to get the Aurora exactly where Sam wanted it. Then he gave Artie the okay, gunned the Chrysler, and brought us around in a big sweep, ending up about two hundred feet to the west, where he shut everything down.

"The buoy is east of the wreck, boys," Sam explained. "We'll drift down to it along the inside edge and see what happens. Watch it when we get close."

I selected the largest smelt I could find and impaled it through the head. I let it find its way to the bottom through forty feet of water and when it did, I put the Penn 155 in gear and began to jig with two-foot lifts of the rod. The eight ounce sinker was just heavy enough to hold bottom. I felt several quick taps and then nothing.

"Sea bass," Sam said. "Maybe we're in too close."

I reeled in and found the bait gone. Re-bait and down again. A few more jigs and this time the fishing gods smiled. I felt the weight which experience has taught means a large fluke. I lowered the rod cautiously and compensated for the drift by feeding out enough line so as not to alert the fluke that all was not well. I waited patiently, carefully feeding line when necessary. Artie reeled in, took up the net and stood beside me. "Good one, huh?" I nodded.

Just then the fluke turned and attempted to swim off with the bait. I came back on the rod and drove the hook home. The rod arched and the fish stubbornly clung to the bottom for several seconds before it began to send quivering sensations up the line, sensations familiar to all doormat fishermen. So far, so good. The next phase was critical. If I could get the fish coming and keep it from creating slack, the chances were good it was going in the bucket. The fishing gods continued to smile, for after one powerful dive for the bottom, the fluke became docile as a lamb and allowed itself to be reeled to the surface where Artie neatly placed the net around it. Sam joyfully slapped his hands together. "Eight pounds if it's an ounce! We'll make another drift; this time along the outside edge."

Sam knew his wreck, no question about that, for on this drift three more fluke were taken—although none as large as the first. Sam nailed two about four to five pounds each, and I got one about five. But on the next drift, it was Artie who became the fair-haired boy. He came up with two: one about five pounds and the other slightly larger.

We hit a slump then and for over two hours we couldn't buy a bite. I was tempted to suggest we anchor over the wreck and do a little sea bass fishing, but I didn't. Sam was running the show and certainly he knew what he was doing.

And to prove he did, we made one last drift, again along the outside edge, and he came up with not only the last fluke of the day, but the largest—one close to nine pounds. Sam, you are quite a fisherman.

So ended the only decent doormat fluke fishing Artie and I have had in two years. I hope to be out again this year—with Artie, of course. And if Sam wants to come along...well, never under-estimate the ability of a real old-timer to produce fish.

NATIONAL SCENE

(Continued from page 6.)

history as the worst ever for school tuna in the New York/New Jersey area.

It seems ironic that I should be arguing that American fishermen be denied the opportunity to take a valuable resource in their own waters at the same time that foreign fishermen are capturing the vast majority of giant tuna killed in U.S. waters each year. However, as long as the State and Commerce Departments maintain their policy of favoring the rights of foreign fishermen over our own, I don't believe we have any other choice. The Japanese longline fishery on giant bluefins should have been terminated long ago, but as long as it goes on we can't permit an additional fishery to put even more stress on an already overburdened fishery. Even were the Japanese to pull out, there would be no justification for allowing a new American longline fishery to start until the species has recovered to historical population levels. Therefore, I propose that the fishery on giant tuna be closed around December 1 and not reopened.

It is most important at this moment of scarcity that the remaining giant tuna be saved for spawning purposes, with limited harvest restricted to those with an historical interest in the fishery. While the latter factor is often cited by NMFS, I find it strange that virtually no attention is paid to the historical catch of both school and giant tuna by those fishing with rod and reel. Statistics provided in the tuna EIS clearly show that the school tuna catch out of just one port (Freeport, L.I.) in 1941 far exceeded that taken by rod and reel along the entire coast last year. These figures are even more astonishing when one considers that in 1941 the methods used were crude by today's standards—and a ten knot boat was considered fast at the time! Yet, NMFS totally disregards the historic catch and permits the purse seine fleet to catch ninety-three percent of the school tuna harvested—and to do so before anglers in the New Jersey to Rhode Island area even get a shot at them!

Whereas until quite recently the giant tuna harvest was taken primarily on rod and reel, NMFS has arranged the quotas in such a fashion that the angling catch continues to decline. On the other hand, a few privileged tuna seiners were rewarded for taking over twice their quota of school tuna last year with a huge increase in their giant tuna allocations.

The angling community has provided strong support for tuna conservation measures and outdoor writers have consistently urged compliance with the regulations. However, NMFS has made a mockery of that support by allowing a handful of individuals in the purse seine industry to make huge profits at the expense of the fishery—and by continuing to support a foreign longline fishery that prospers while American citizens are called upon to sacrifice. The National Marine Fisheries Service would be well advised to re-evaluate their tuna policies immediately if the agency expects to retain the cooperation of this nation's marine sport fishermen!

OUTBOARD DOCTOR

Questions answered by

Doc Merc Omchrysler

Readers should address questions
to: Outboard Doctor
Box 126, W. Sayville, N.Y. 11796

This is my second season on my boat battery. It has provided excellent service so far. Yet I'm concerned about the four to five month inactivity it takes each winter. I would like to keep the battery at its highest level of performance, so I started asking around what to do during the winter months. Here are some of the replies I got: a) a three-day slow charge prior to using the battery; b) twenty-four hour charge every other month; c) a trickle charge using a four amp or less battery charger the entire four to five months; and d) a high pressure charge a day before launching.

All of them sound reasonable, but which one—if any—is the best. I own a four-amp charger and would like your professional opinion. Anxiously awaiting your reply. *Jon Rothfeld.*

We hope you are using your battery now, Jon, and as a long-time LIF subscriber we think you deserve the best of luck with it. Jon, a fully charged battery will have a specific gravity reading of about 1260 on a hydrometer. If you do not own one you can pick one up at your friendly auto supply counter. Their cost is generally under $3. When you are getting ready to put your battery to sleep for the winter, check the fluid level—it should be filled to the ridge under the cap opening, or as otherwise prescribed for your particular battery. If you find you must add water, do so; then put it on your four-amp charger overnight, or until the specific gravity reading is about the 1260 figure for each cell. The next step is to clean the battery up real well. If there is any corrosion about the terminals, put a little baking soda in the water you wash it down with. You may need to use a wire brush or one of your wife's metal cleaning pads from the kitchen—your auto parts counter has a special little brush for this if you are interested. After cleaning, wipe completely dry. For storage, choose a cool spot: an unheated garage or outdoor shed would be ideal. A battery in good shape that is fully charged will lose very little of its charge under cold storage conditions. When springtime comes along, you plug in your four-amp charger and bring it up to snuff. The storage of a battery for the three to five months of the off-season is not really the critical part of getting good service from it. More important is a good maintenance program that ensures that a battery is kept in top condition. This includes the following: 1. Maintain the proper level of the electrolyte; 2. Keep the battery case (especially the top) clean and dry; 3. Keep all connections and terminals clean and polished; 4. Do not allow the specific gravity reading to go below 1200; 5. Keep the vent holes in the cap cleaned out—if your battery has this type cap; 6. Use only distilled water to fill it—this will help guard against chemical or particle contamination.

* * *

Last winter, when I put my motor away, I cleaned it up good and fogged it with Liquid Wrench thinking that would be the best rust preventive around. I don't know whether that would have anything to do with it, but when I start it now it kicks back at me. Also, it backfires or something. My motor is a 1976 25 h.p. Evinrude. The reason I question the Liquid Wrench is when I looked over my owner's manual, the company says to use a special spray that they make for winterizing. What do you think about this? *Bob Lord.*

For your current problem, the "kick back," the engine timing is out of adjustment or a carburetor is cut too lean on the idle circuit. Both of these possibilities could cause the engine to spit back or kick. A minor tune-up is definitely in order. As for the winterizing with Liquid Wrench, we would not recommend this. It is an excellent product for its intended use, which as far as we can learn, is not that of a storage seal. OMC (Johnson-Evinrude) has an excellent product designed for winterizing your engine and the directions for its use are printed on the can. Using wrong products for winterizing could cause a lot of heartaches in the spring. Basically, we recommend sticking to the products which the manufacturers recommend for their engine; in just about all cases which we can think of they are superior to the substitutes you may find on the market.

* * *

I have had a 1967, 18 h.p. Evinrude since it was new and it has performed superbly. Suddenly, at the start of the season, I encountered a problem. When I tried pulling the starting cord it was locked as if the throttle was advanced. After fooling with the throttle (remote control) for a few minutes, the cord worked all right for a few weeks. The trouble has happened again and this time I cannot get it to release. I have looked in the manual and an outboard repair book, but find no mention of this problem. *Richard McCabe.*

This sounds like one of two possibilities: either the remote cable or the locking mechanism on your engine is well worn. Remove the remote control connection to the shift mechanism and see if, when moving the cam into neutral, the locking mechanism releases, allowing the flywheel to turn. Obviously, if this happens, then the problem is in the remote cable, or control box. If the locking mechanism stays engaged when shifting without the remote cables, then the assembly must be replaced, as wear has made it non-functional.

SERVICE TIP

A modern outboard engine should idle as smoothly as any well-tuned automobile engine—in many cases, better! Some of us are inclined to put up with problems of the engine cutting out at slow speeds as hitting the starter usually gets it going and an increase in the throttle handles the situation. In heavy traffic, such as in a canal, narrow inlet or channel where boats are in a "bumper to bumper" situation, it may not be possible to increase speed and a sudden loss of power may mean that the forty-footer in the line behind you will be unable to maneuver around you. Also, in the chop of many wakes, your hull at slow speed will have its bow down, ready to provide a pivot for the transom to slide around, leaving you broadside to traffic—a very uncomfortable situation. If you think about it for a moment, you will be able to come up with many more reasons for your engine to be tuned to run as well at slower speeds as at high speeds. In addition, improper idling may be indicative of a more serious problem in the early stages of development.

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OUTER BANKS— On Long Island

by Herb Buch

"Outer Banks"—isn't that somewhere in North Carolina? No, said Fred, it's a hot new location that has been producing lots of fish just about every day since they first discovered it sometime in August. Mel, John and I were out for a day of bluefishing and Fred, who fishes on this same Captain Speedy out of Captree just about every weekend, was bringing us up-to-date, because we hadn't seen him for a few weeks. As we were heading southeast from the mouth of the inlet, we noticed that seven smaller boats were following in our wake, or paralleling our course. Fred explained that they were letting us lead them to the new grounds, which already had gained a considerable reputation for furnishing consistently good fishing.

The long trip out gave us plenty of time to find out what to expect. An hour-and-a-half to two hour trip—depending on weather conditions, would bring the Captain Speedy VI to the new grounds before any other party boats. After double anchoring, there would be a session of fast and furious fishing with bluefish hooked on every drop of your lure. Then, as other party boats began to zero in on the hotspot, and disturbed the area in their efforts to anchor over productive territory, the action would fall off for awhile, and then improve to a slow, steady pick for the rest of the day.

As soon as the second anchor was dropped, and we were falling back, people began to shout "fish on." For a period of time, the action was wild. This boat has three excellent mates, and people were lifting most fish under ten pounds in weight, but the captain had to leave the bridge to help in gaffing the large number of alligators that were coming aboard.

Everyone was using a lure, and everything took fish. Water depth made the use of lighter lures very frustrating, as it took so long for them to sink. Banana splits in various weights were most productive, and white tubes seemed to be the best choice on this day. Over the 1979 season, the choice of the fish seemed to vary as different combinations were more or less effective on different days. There were even days when an unadorned chrome jig was just what the fish wanted.

Other Captree and Freeport boats, and on occasion, even a Sheepshead Bay vessel would take advantage of the bonanza to be found here. Many small boats would anchor within casting distance of our boat, and more than one jig was lost to an anchor line. There is enough confusion when you hook up with someone from the other side of your own boat, but we had people fighting fish hooked up with other anglers on nearby craft. Really large blues are difficult to control, especially if the current helps them to run under the boat, or towards another boat, where people may be casting towards you. There is often no way to tell whether the fish that you are fighting is on your line or some other angler's until the lines come to the surface. If you read the reports of fantastic fishing last summer and fall, but were skeptical, doubt no more—it was all true. There were days, as late as November, when everyone would ask the captain to go in early because they had so many fish.

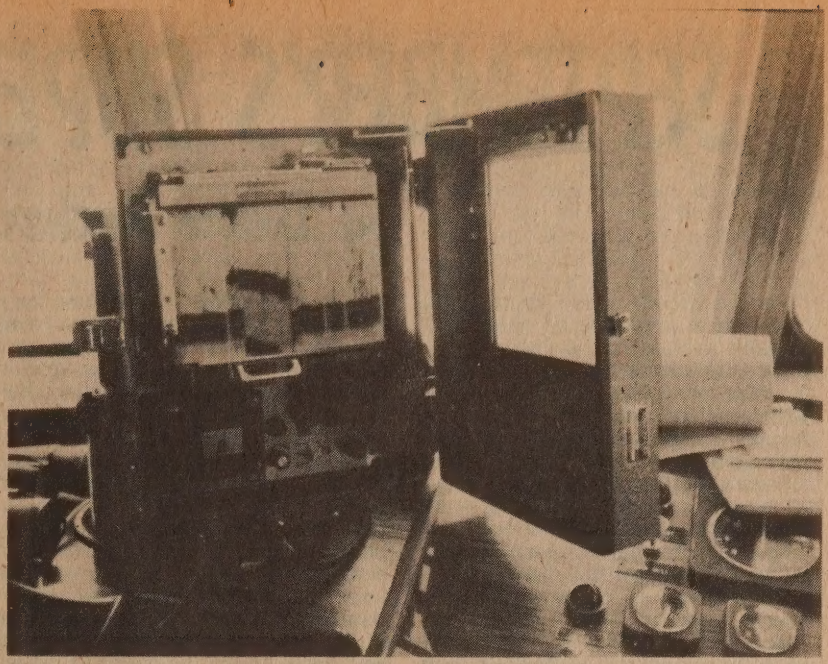
Conversations with Captain Speedy on the trip home and with Kenny (who captains the boat on some days)

"Doc" Campanelli hefts his monsterous, twenty pound pool winner.

helped to fill me in on this fantastic location. By coincidence, we were on board on the day when it was located. That summer morning, we were heading for the grounds off Patchogue beach, although the fishing action had fallen off at that location on the previous night. Jigging was very slow and after a few hours, there were only a few fish on the boat. The captain went farther offshore, and double anchored before beginning to chum. This produced a few bonito at the surface and a small number of blues on the bottom. All this action was on bait and most of the passengers were getting nothing. The action was so slow that the die-hard squidders were not even fishing. At about 3PM, the captain announced on the public address system, that he had a radio report from a small private boat that was into blues with jigs farther offshore and that we would give it a try. Most captains would have been getting ready to head the boat for home at that hour, but Captain Speedy will always try a little longer on the chance of getting fish for his passengers. He headed offshore at full speed, and a half hour later, we spotted the private boat which was just cleaning up to head in. We circled a few times to locate the fish on the sonar, and when the captain said that we were over fish we connected immediately. One drift was enough to give everyone a taste of action, and we were all happy when we headed for port. The boat returned to Captree after 6PM, which meant that the crew had to work like demons to clean fish and the boat, so that it would be ready for the night trip leaving at 7PM.

Captain Speedy Hubert specializes in bluefishing, and I was very interested in getting his opinion of this spot. He told me that this location, which is about fifteen miles offshore, is a small rise only six feet or so above the level of a submarine plateau in over one hundred feet of water. His graph recorder showed a gully as he approached, with the bottom rising about twelve feet to the plateau, with the final lump showing at the end of the recording. On October 20, there were fish piled up for seventy feet up from the bottom. Some dogfish were on the bottom, but so were the blues, and those blues were thick all the way up. The hot area is about as big as a football field, and bait had been abundant in the area on every trip, although the captain could not find any special reason to explain the abundance of life at this spot. The bait that predominated was sand eels, but large amounts of anchovies, and squid were present at times.

The fish population seemed to change from day to day. Some days, the blues were all small; some days all large, and on others, the sizes were mixed. Bonito were present most of the time, even up to the end of October. The big surprise was a showing of tuna. These arrived at about the same time as the late season showing at the Mud Hole off New Jersey. A friend of mine was out on October 31 and three tuna were taken that day. The tuna were showing on the surface and several people tried for them. Eddie Helmsley picked up an eight inch sand eel that a bluefish had spit up, and used it to land a tuna of about fifty pounds. One took a small butterfish carried as bluefish bait. Someone else foul hooked one on a banana split and landed it after a fierce struggle. That one was estimated at eighty pounds. All this was going on during fantastic bluefishing, so that most of the passengers were not even trying for the tuna.



The right side of the graph paper shows blues and bait stacked up on the "Outer Banks."

If you get a chance to fish this new bank, your regular deep sea outfit will probably be adequate to get you some fish. If you want real action, you must be willing to work hard at squidding, and get yourself a fast retrieve reel. If you can flip a jig out with conventional tackle, your choice of reel could be the Penn Jigmaster, Newell, or high speed Ambassadeur. If you like spinning, any of the large, fast retrieve reel such as Daiwa and Penn put out will do the job. You must keep your reels as full of line as possible for two reasons. Most important, is to get the maximum retrieve speed per turn of the handle. The second reason is to allow you to get the best distance when you use an underhand flip to get your jig away from the boat. Some of the regulars use heavy outfits with deadly efficiency, but a beginner or an occasional fisherman should be particularly careful not to begin with an outfit that is too heavy. Squidding requires lots of energy, and a heavy outfit can take the starch out of your arms in a short while. A friend who had a small fast retrieve Penn Senator tried using it one day and it just about broke his arms.

There are many medium-weight, seven to eight foot conventional or spinning rods available that weigh a pound or less and are plenty strong enough for the job. Paired up with the small Jigmaster or a medium Daiwa or Penn spinner, you will have a good outfit that will not leave you weak after a few hours of squidding. The smaller reels have to be kept very full of fairly light line to work effectively.

When it comes to choosing line, the majority opinion favors Ande pink. It is reasonable in price, and durable in use. Thirty pound test is a good all-around line, but I prefer twenty because I can get more of it on the outer radius of my reel spools, resulting in easier and better casting. You should cut back your line during the day, and any time that it rubs against the boat or another line. Replace the outer hundred yards after every trip and land more fish.

An assortment of Bridgeport and Ava jigs, with and without tubes will suit your needs. The Tri-Fin sand eel was also very effective at times. Tubes of various colors will all take fish, but the most popular color on most days was green. Sharpen all of your hooks with an ignition file as it is not easy to set a hook with a long length of mono in the water. Bite-offs of jigs occur frequently, so either carry spares of your favorites or be prepared to buy on the boat. The mates on any boat will show you how to tie on a jig, or do it for you.

Hopefully, this fantastic fishing hole, which produced so well for months in 1979 will be just as good during 1980. I, for one, will be out there trying for a twenty pounder like several that I saw taken last year.

SEPTEMBER'S SUPER SPORT

by Bruce Sucher

The first scouts arrive in the New York area sometime in late July. Usually a diamond jig meant for a bluefish is intercepted by one of these torpedo-shaped speedsters. Along with warmer water temperatures, August brings the promise of more encounters and by September bonito, albacore, skipjack and school tuna are firmly entrenched in the species caught by local fishermen. Late August, September into early October is the prime time that many anglers look forward to as the best sport of the year. These mackerel family thoroughbreds offer the greatest challenge and most fun to those anglers with enough savvy to match wits and win.

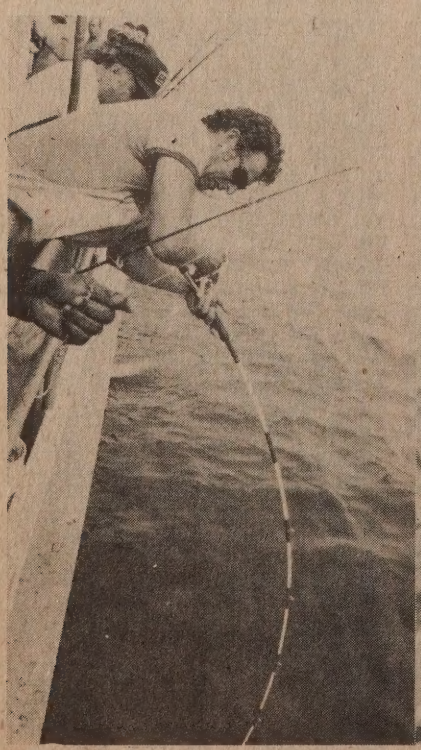
All of these fish are of the same familiar mackerel shape, but heavier in body. Streamlined by millions of years of evolution, they are built for speed. Pectoral fins fold against their bodies, dorsal fins recede into narrow slits, they can achieve fantastic speed to catch and overcome any baitfish, jig or trolled lure that tries to escape. And like all members of the mackerel family they are not equipped with swim bladders. They must swim or sink and do not possess the biological luxury of waiting to ambush from motionless concealment. Their eyes are large, all-seeing. They can spot and avoid a carelessly prepared artificial or natural bait faster than you can do anything about it. On the other hand, there are days when nothing can stop these usually finicky feeders. They will be hooked on bunker backs and wire leader equipped hooks meant for the less wary bluefish, and impale themselves on slow moving banana and surge tube lures. But these days are few and far between. Properly equipped and use of the appropriate techniques is the key that will open the door to success.

There are three basic and effective ways of catching these game fish: natural bait, jigging with artificial and trolling. Bait and jig fishing is accomplished best in conjunction with chumming. But since this article will deal primarily with party boat (head boat) tactics, I won't go into great detail in describing how to chum—the crew will be taking care of that and the captain will be responsible for putting you in a productive spot.

Briefly, the boat is anchored upstream off a piece of irregular bottom or sudden dropoff that naturally draws these fish. A thinned with sea water (about the consistency of minestone) constant stream of ground bunker is thrown into the water. In addition to the ground chum, small baitfish like spearing, sand eels or small half-inch cubes of butterfish or bunker are sparingly tossed into the slick to increase the enticement. It's easy to overfeed these fish. They'll hang far away from the boat and enjoy a free lunch. The idea is to chum them within range of your bait or jig and to arouse their "competitive spirit" for a limited amount of food. If you're chumming properly, then in all likelihood you'll begin seeing the fish flashing through the slick, inhaling small chunks of chum as they drift down-tide.

Now that the fish are in your vicinity, you've got to hook them. As with any sport fishing, the smart angler adapts to the species he seeks. These fish, because of their natural attribute of speed and keen eyesight, require a bit more preparation.

For sheer quantity of fish caught, the "heave and haul" method of jig fishing is the most effective. Your rod should be of medium action with a slow taper—7½' for conventional



This nice albacore was brought to gaff along with a tangle of lines created by the speedster's erratic runs.

This huge sea bass walloped a jig fished by Karen Huckemeyer. It weighed in at 6½ pounds.

Albacore are tough customers and even the most skilled anglers have a tough time getting things under control.

tackle is an ideal length. The tip should have plenty of bounce which will give your lure the erratic movement these fish find irresistible.

The reel should have a high retrieve ratio. In this area, the Penn Jigmaster 500 with a 4:1 ratio is almost universally used by party boat mates and other commercial fishermen. Other reels with equivalent high speed retrieve will work as well. The one thing you must consider is spool diameter. A small baitcasting reel with even a 6:1 ratio will not retrieve line as rapidly as a reel equipped with a large spool. That's simple physics and if you doubt me, get out a ruler and measure for yourself. And to best take advantage of the reel's high speed retrieve, the spool should be filled to capacity.

The right rod and reel are of limited value if you use the wrong line. Stay away from the fluorescent type mono and braided lines. High visibility is what you're trying to avoid. Remember, these fish have keen eyesight. Again, the standard which has stood the test of time, is good quality pink mono. Light blue, green or clear mono filament is almost as good. Twenty-five pound test has proven (at least to my satisfaction) to be the best and most efficient strength to use. Twenty pound test will assure more strikes, but since I do most of my fishing from frequently crowded party boats, I opt for the additional strength and sacrifice number of hook-ups for fish actually landed. That five pound test advantage will let you control these fish when they make one of their sizzling runs and keep tangles and lost time to a minimum.

Lure selection is important. Though the standard three ounce diamond jig equipped with a single 7/0 O'Shaughnessy will catch these fish, other patterns will produce more consistently. The jig most commonly and productively used by the Sheepshead Bay sharpies is the two ounce Vi-Ke by Bridgeport. The treble hook this lure comes equipped with is discarded. A #7 split ring and #1 nickel-plated barrel swivel are attached and a 5/0 short shank O'Shaughnessy is crimped onto the swivel's free end. I feel that the hook plays a significant role in this lure's action, so I sometimes use a 4/0 to 5/0 gold-plated beak with a short shank and straight eye. My theory is the additional flash and the hook's lightweight are better attractors. Try both hook styles and see what you think. Other effective lures (besides the ubiquitous diamond jig) are the Krocodile spoons in one to two ounce sizes, Kastmasters and Hopkins. All produce fish, but a good deal has to do with the individual angler's choice and his confidence in a particular shape and weight.

The lure is cast away from the boat and if you want decent numbers of these fish you've got to position yourself so the lure can be worked through the slick. Let the lure hit bottom and immediately begin your retrieve. Reel as fast as you possibly can. It is impossible to outpace these fish. If they want your lure, they'll get it. Just before your lure breaks through the surface, stop for a second and then begin again. I'm not sure why but that sudden stop drives these fish nuts. Sometimes these fish will hang directly beneath the boat.

Small bluefin tuna are prone to this behavior. Drop your lure straight down and after hitting bottom, begin your retrieve. Tuna sometimes prefer a jig that is bounced a la mackerel fishing. Let your lure sink twenty to thirty feet and just jig it up and down. Tuna are not that difficult to fool. It's just that there are so few of them.

Before I go to baitfishing, let me briefly describe trolling. Since these fish are relatively small, you should go light. Bonito will average around three to five pounds; albacore (false albacore really) around eight to twelve pounds and skipjacks somewhere in-between. School tuna can also be handled on this equipment, but you've got to know what you're doing if the fish is in excess of twenty-five pounds. Jap feathers of various colors (black and white, red and white, are my favorites) in one to two ounce sizes on eight feet of #7 wire are trolled behind the boat. Two lines are fished in the first or second wake between twenty to thirty feet astern. Two others in the fourth or fifth wake between fifty and seventy feet astern and if you like, one more about one hundred twenty-five feet back. Bonito prefer to come right into the prop wash and will usually smack the closest lures. Tuna and albacore tend to veer off the white water and usually prefer the furthest. Trolling speed is extremely dependent on the individual boat. Vary your speed between 1500 to 2000 RPM and you'll be in the ball park. Once you get a hook-up, keep to that specific pace.

Set your drag light, about twenty percent of the line's strength and put on the clicker. There's no sweeter music to a fisherman than the sound of that clicker wailing. I wish someone would market an alarm clock that used that sound instead of a buzzer. That's one alarm that would get me out of bed in a hurry.

Baitfishing for bonito and albacore requires a bit more finesse and skill than jig fishing, but let me assure you, it is well within the grasp of the average fisherman. Rod/reel requirements are up to the individual angler. The most important item is line weight and hook size. Fifteen or twenty pound test pink mono is your best bet. If the boat is crowded and space is confined, go with twenty. There are specific hooks designed for these fish—namely, the short-shanked tuna hook in size 1/0 through the smaller #2. They are tied via a clinch knot to the end of the line. If the tide is swift or if it is rough, you might be advised to use a very small split shot or a piece of a larger one. Crimp it two feet above your hook. The idea is to present the bait as naturally as possible—that is, the bait should sink at the same rate as the ladle chummed.

The best bait by far is a fresh spearing of about four inches long. You can generally spot the more experienced anglers. They're the ones bent over the can of spearing picking out the choice baits. Sometimes fresh spearing are not available. Small butterfish about the size of a half-dollar are an excellent bait, as are half inch cubes cut from a larger fish. Frozen smelts can, at times, be effective, but they are not my favorite. Place the hook through the shoulder just behind the head or conceal it in the chunk bait. Position yourself on the boat so your bait will fall within the limits of the slick. The stern is usually the place to be, but when wind and tide are adverse, the bow may well be the better choice. The bottom line is, the fish will be in the slick so your bait had better be there, too! Let out ten feet of line and then slowly peel off line a foot at a time. These fish tend to hang close to the boat. Usually your strike will come within thirty feet. After that, it's a good chance a bluefish will take your bait and bite off that hook. Bring plenty of extras.

The pick-up is unmistakable. Let the fish take the bait and run to a count of three and then lock your reel and sock him. You probably won't have much to do at this point but watch line melt from your reel. Follow the fish and try to keep him perpendicular to your position on the boat. Walk your fish. Be courteous, but firm. Take that extra second to determine if the fish is over or under your fellow angler's line. It's not uncommon for an albacore or large bonito to wipe out twenty lines or more. Sometimes it's unavoidable. These fish can move faster than you can think. As soon as your fish is decked, the right thing to do is cut your line so the tangle can be quickly sorted out and everyone can go about their business.

Baitfishing for the exotics can verge on artistry. Last September, Warren, a mate on the Helen H., was chumming for bluefish. He was lacing the slick with fresh spearing which is caviar for "bones" and "albies." Occasionally Warren would see a nice albie flash through the slick and daintily pick out these silver-sided baitfish. He is an excellent fisherman, but no matter how beautiful the bait, no matter how artfully presented, the fish would shy away from that hand-picked jumbo spearing. Then, instead of using a large spearing, he hooked on a small one just large enough to conceal the hook. In a handful of chum was the booby trap. The albacore fell for it and if a fish's face could change expression this one surely had the look of surprise. Sometimes that extra effort of thought and careful presentation is what it takes to catch these fish. Make that effort; I know you won't be sorry.

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MONTAUK ★ BEST BET ★ COD

Aboard the charter boat **King Wayne** Saturday rocks star Billy Joel and friends boated a bunch of blues up to 20 lbs. and they also boated a 50 lb. bluefin tuna. This was all on diamond jigs SE of Block Island. Sunday's charter for Ernie's Fishing Club saw 75 bluefish commit suicide on bait at Cartwright.

Capt Mike of the charter boat **Montauk** called to say that the Cartwright bluefishing is the best ever so far this year and that he has been having over 100 choppers a trip all this past week. Largest fish of the week on the boat was a 19 lb. 8 oz. gorillagator taken by John Anderson of NJ. Mike says the large blues are about to flood Cartwright. This is all bait fishing except for the times that they are diamond jigging with 6 or 8 oz. Tri-Fin Teardrops. Quite a few makos around and a lot of private boats have been getting 2 or 3 a day.

Capt Joe McBride of the charter boat **My Mate** says the offshore fishing remains good. Capt Andrius had a good number of blues and a mako over the weekend. The inshore picture has been very good on large blues at the sub buoy as well as Block Island. Due to sudden cancellation the boat has this weekend open. See ad for details.

Charter boat **Julie III** reports that a group led by Little Ernie on Saturday boated 900 lbs. of blues from 8 to 14 lbs. and a 125 lb. brown shark, all caught on a Cartwright rig. It took 40 minutes to bring the shark aboard. Sunday's charter led by Gus Delgato had 350 lbs. of porgies at Great Eastern and on the south side.

Capt Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** says that Scotty Howe of NYC and group had some big tuna action Monday. Diamond jigging and chumming brought in 5 tuna in the 60 to 100 lb. class. There are still quite a few small and larger fish being seen but not caught consistently everyday. Inshore there are still lots of blues and green bonito being taken.

Dermott Williamson and Captain Henry Harris of the charter boat "Snapshot V" pose with Dermott's 320 lb. swordfish. The big broadbill was weighed in at Henry Colombi's Star Island Yacht Club.

Live eels took these 25 stripers from 20 to 42 lbs. at Great Eastern on the August moon. Catch was made aboard the charter boat "Windy."

Rich at **West Lake Fishing Lodge** reports that on Saturday Capt Joe Wolfe on the charter boat St. Lucy, had a 207 lb. mako taken by 14 yr. old John Kaye of Staten Island. This was John's first time out. Aboard the charter boat **Barracuda** Michael Fields had a 100 and a 150 lb. mako. Aboard the Bonito Capt Lou Davis put Francis Rustucci into a 175 lb. mako and a 200 lb. mako. Ed reports that the porgy fishing is good. Bluefish are a hot number at Cartwright. Decent fluking is being had at Midway and porgies seem to be the best bet.

Capt Jack Passie of the charter boat **Windy** tells of zillions of blues off Block Island, that fishing could not be better. You can catch them until your arms fall off says Jack. A two man charter of Thursday had 1200 lbs. of blues on diamond jigs. These were 8 to 15 lb. fish caught in 90' of water hard on the bottom.

Henry Colombi at **Star Island Yacht Club** says there has been a white marlin invasion. Greg Jost on his boat Sea Hunter had a 67 lb. white marlin Saturday and ten others on. The boat Albatrose had a 64 and a 74 lb. white marlin. There were many other white marlin brought in as well. Walt Capalian on Blue Beard bagged a 257 lb. mako. Ira Stern on the Cutlet had a 125 lb. mako. Ten other makos for the week ranged from the very small to the somewhat large. Cartwright is producing gorilla blues from 12 to 15 lbs. on herring baits and on diamond jigs to the tune of 300-500 lbs. a private boat. The canyon is alive and offshore is excellent. Eighty to 90 lb. tuna are being taken on jigs. A 200 pounder and a 300 pounder were also brought in as was a 285 lb. bigeye. However the tuna catches are picky and there are not giants to be seen.

Captain Richie Rade of the **Marlin**

Patchogue Fishing Club member George Dietz hefts the 11 lb. 14 oz. doormat fluke he landed at Montauk aboard the "Marlin V."

Fleet reported that the fall run of porgies is on! Action has been red hot with most fares averaging 40 to 50 big humpbacks apiece. A few anglers each day usually manage to put away 100 of the fish. Most range 1½ to 2½ lbs. with some 3 lbers. mixed in. In addition, a few big sea bass are among the porgies. He has been fishing out in front of the lighthouse. Bluefishing for the **Marlin IV and V** has been very good with 2 to 400 monster blues coming aboard each trip. Fishing is being done at Cartwright with bait and action is equally good both day and night. While most fish range from 14 to 18 lbs. one fish taken during the week checked out at 22 lbs. on the boat scale.

The **Viking Fleet** reports that the cod fishing at Cox's Ledge remains excellent with solid catches of cod from 8 to 15 lbs. being had. This is all on bait. Pool fish are constantly in the 20s and 30s. The porgy fishing has been solid, as evidenced by Saturday's nigh hook which was 110 porgies. The trips being run for night blues continue to connect very well on big fish being caught in heavy numbers. Fluking is on a downward spiral.

SOUTH FORK

★ BEST BET ★

FLOUNDERS

SHINNECOCK

Thom at **Specks Bait and Tackle** reported that porgy and blackfishing has been excellent on Peconic Bay wrecks. Casters take plenty of porgies averaging 3/4 lbs. from the beach at Cow Neck. In Shinnecock Bay, some decent fluke fishing in the basket area and West Channel. Bluefish come and

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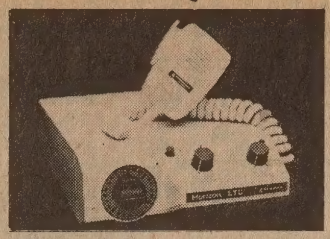

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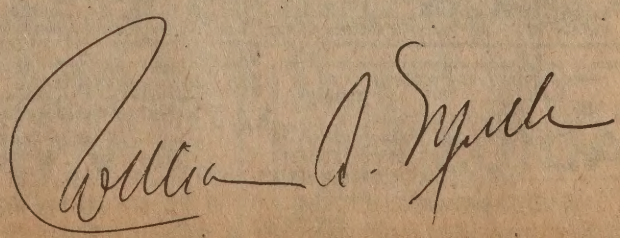
EDITORIAL

(Continued from Page 2.)

at Democrat Point. Thus, the Commission could choose to enforce that regulation at any time without deliberation.

At this time, no one is supporting any of the proposals that remained on the table for discussion after the September 4 meeting and we do not want our comments in this editorial to be construed as support. Rather, we are trying to present the facts and the circumstances as we know them. We urge all fishermen to review these proposals with an open mind. This is especially important since the initial responses of some have been very emotional and hasty.

We are attempting to help the Commission to **protect** our surf fishing access privileges, and as such, we have an obligation to provide ideas and support to this cooperative undertaking. Therefore, I urge you to write to me at The Fisherman with your ideas and comments on the above items. The next meeting will take place on October 2, 1980 and I'd like to have as many opinions to take to that meeting as possible. Again, thank you for your thoughtful participation in this endeavor.



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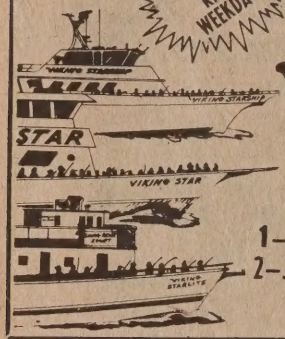

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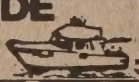

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go outside the inlet. Last Thursday, Ed Pribil and his son Ken trolled umbrellas to take 20 choppers from 5 to 12 lbs. On Saturday, Bob Harder stopped by on his return trip from Montauk to weigh in a 10¼ lb. fluke. He took it on the south side using a squid and sand eel combo. Still plenty of snappers in the area.

The **Capt Clark II** reports blackfishing in Peconic Bay is good on all trips as the water has been cooling off. Fiddlers and green crabs which are producing best, can be had on the boat. On Saturday Tom Hester of Mt. Vernon had 2 full pails of porgies plus 9 blackfish from 4 to 8 lbs. winning the pool with a 9½ lb. blackfish. The entire week has been excellent on porgies with average catches of 50-60 fish per man. Wednesday Bill Strang of Brooklyn had 85 porgies and won the pool with a 8 lb. blackfish. Capt Clark will be making ocean wreck trips for sea bass this weekend. Please call for information.

MORICHES BAY

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** told us that some good flounder scores were made at buoy 42 in recent days. He knew of a couple of boatmen who finished up with nearly 100 keepers using worms. Some fluke near the inlet with the better anglers managing 8 to 9 keepers apiece. Plenty of crabs, lots of snappers and small sea bass creating a good mixed bag for anglers in the bay. Small blues just outside the inlet, with bigger fish out in 60' to 80' of water.

Good flounder action and also some sea bass mixed in at buoy 42, according to Al of the **Hi Way Fishing Station**. Some blowfish were taken at buoy 52 over the weekend by skiff fishermen. Al called the fluking in the area slow in recent days, but added a few of the flatties were taken around the inlet area.

B&B Tackle tells us that fluking has slowed in general but that the fish are moving to the Inlet and catches should be available along the South shore beach. Flounders have started at buoy 36, 29 and in Hart's Cove, of decent size. Snapper fishing is excellent with small 2 to 3 lb. weaks mixed in on spearing and small tin. Blueclaw crabs are excellent back in the bay. Lots of big tuna from 50 Fathoms on out. A 450 lb. blue marlin was hooked and landed aboard a private boat fishing out of Fire Island Inlet. Two to 4 lb. blues have been jigged and trolled along the beach this week.

Skidmore's Fishing Station says that flounder is the word for the week. A drastic improvement has been seen in the past few days. Matt and John Viol and Sal Draccio along with Dianie Cinquegrani of the Bronx, had 123 keeper flounder plus 55 throwbacks and miniature sea bass, porgies and blowfish. They were fishing NE of buoy 42 with bloods and mussel chum. Most rental boats on the weekend averaged 30 to 40 keeper

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Walter Sr, Jr, and David Czekaj with Mike Ulrich and Aron Prochko caught 25 blues and 9 fluke at buoy 42 on spearing and squid. Photo courtesy of "Skidmore's Fishing Station."

flounder and quite a few throwbacks with a good mixture of porgies, blowfish and sea bass. The flounder season is off the ground. Blueclaw crabs are a good number also.

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Stirz's Fishing Station reports mucho snappers with the best at the bridge and buoy 17. Larger snaps at buoys 20 and 21. Spearing, small tins and small plugs all work well. Nice weakfish at the bridge to 7 lbs. on squid fished on a hi/lo rig with incoming water best in the morning. Lots of sea bass to 1½ lbs. from buoy 19 to the bridge on squid and clam, both tides. Small porgies at the bridge. Some of the first fall flounder of good size at the bridge, no quantities though. Blueclaw crabs from buoy 17 to the bridge on traps and rings. Tom Cangalosi had a mixed bag of porgies, snappers, sea bass, flounders and crabs fishing from buoy 17 to the bridge.

SAYVILLE

Small weakfish continue to please Great South Bay Anglers, according to Charlie at **Young's Fishing Station**. The 1½ to 3 lb. fish are being taken anywhere from one half mile off of Sayville over to the Fire Island Pines-Barrett Beach shore. Kingfish from 1 to 2½ lbs. are mixed with the weaks. Both are being taken on squid strips. Plenty of snappers still in the area. Carl Jones, Jack Miller and Al Morgan combined to take 60 weaks off of Barrett Beach. Pete Bilella and Kenny Bedrosan totaled 22 weaks and one fluke off of the Pines.

WEST SAYVILLE

Vinnie at **South Bay Fishing Station** said that very good weakfishing continues off of Sayville, particularly behind the dredge boats. Some boats took as many as 60 of the 1½ to 3 lb. fish. Best baits have been squid strips or snapper fillets. Kingfish and a few tiderunner weaks are mixed with the smaller weakfish at buoys 28 and 29. Sea bass, porgies and blowfish providing action at buoys 16 and 20 and snappers and crabs both continue to please locally. Gene and his two sons, totalled 42 weakfish on Saturday. Kim Young and Larry had a good mixed bag of weaks, kings, sea bass and porgies on Sunday. Kim topped off the day with a 10 lb. weakfish.

OAKDALE

Dave of **J&R Sport Center** was still enthused about the trip he made to the canyon last week with Jim Finnegan aboard the Prime Cut. Dave tangled with his first tuna ever and all told the crew put away 3 big yellowfins and 6 longfin albacore. A husky dolphin rounded out the trip. Seven-year-old Eric Roberson stopped by the shop with a weakfish which weighed 7½ lbs. minus its head, tail and entrails. The fish had been 35" long and weighed 12 lbs. on a hand scale before being butchered. The big weak was taken on a live snapper near the lighthouse. Boatmen have been doing a job on these fish for the past couple of weeks. Action here over the weekend however was slow. Small weakfish and some king fish taking squid strips behind the clam dredges off of Sayville and Heckscher and some crabs still being taken in the river.

Pete Jakits, who has been having a banner year offshore reported the results of a recent trip to 145' of water, 140° out of Fire Island. Besides taking a 50 lb. bluefin, a 50 lb. mako and tagging and releasing a 250 lb. tiger shark, Pete and his young crew also had something take a whole weakfish and completely strip a 9/0. The highlight of the trip, however, was an estimated 400 lb. blue marlin which frolicked in the chum slick and provided several nerve wracking moments for the surprised crew. Running to 155' of water on Saturday, Pete, and Steve Iannella along with Ed Burns and Pete's brother Mike returned with a 355 lb. mako. Pete's whole crew by the way range in age from 16 to 17 years old. The big mako took a whole mackerel and was subdued with a 50 lb. class outfit.

This monstrous brown trout of 12 lbs. 2 oz. was taken on a yellow maribou streamer in the Connetquot River by Daniel Scelza. It was the third brown over 10 lbs. to come out of the river this season. Dan checked in his trophy at J&R Sport Center in Oakdale.

BAY SHORE

From **Smokey's Bait and Tackle**, Linda reported a catch of 60 porgies and sea bass made on worms east of Kismet for Ralph Snow and Len Ritter aboard the Summer Snow. This was on Saturday. Weakfish from 8 to 15 lbs. being taken on live snappers at the light and the WR buoy. Bobbie of the Bugaloo weighed in a 14 lb. 2 oz. weak on Saturday. It fell for a live snapper. Fluke at the inlet on sand eel and squid combos and good crabbing and snapper fishing at the local docks. Albacore and bonito being trolled in 80' of water and trollers and jiggers taking blues southeast of the inlet in 100' of water.

Capt Neil of the **Casey Lee** says fluking was fair on the weekend to the tune of 2 to 3 keepers a man fishing the Inlet area. The skipper asked us to announce that the boat is now fishing Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays only. The boat will be blackfishing for the next few weeks until the flounder come in strong.

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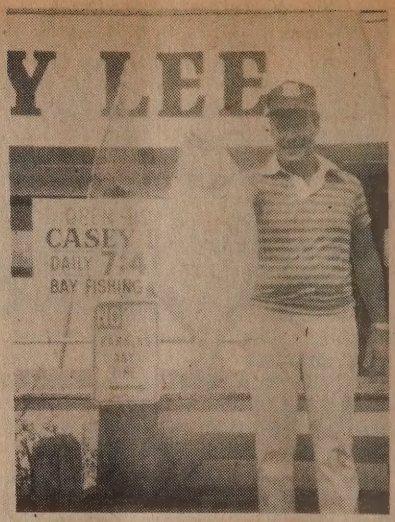

Gene Kelly hefts the 7 lb. 12 oz. doormat he landed recently aboard the Bay Shore open boat "Casey Lee."

CAPTREE

Captain Richie Abrams of the open boat **Captain Whitaker** reported a good day Sunday with sea bass, porgies and blackfish. The day's total came to about 200 blackfish and 250 porgies and sea bass. The captain is fishing local bay wrecks and is carrying fiddlers aboard the boat. Largest blackfish to date has been 7 lbs. The skipper describes Saturday's action as on the slow side, but this was preceded by really good action on Thursday and Friday. The Captain Whitaker is now sailing for blackfish 8AM daily.

Captain George Tweedy of the open boat **Captain Scotty** said that bluefishing has been a little picky in recent days. On Saturday's night trip, 150 blues in the 4-6 lb. class were taken. Sunday's day trip was tough, but those fish that were taken were slammers in the 12-14 lb. class. In addition, a few 8-10 lb. dolphin also came aboard. Bonito and albacore are mixed with the blues which are taking jigs and bait during the day and bait at night. The skipper said there are still plenty of fish on the grounds and he look for a weather change to bring about a new feeding binge.

The open boat **Jib VII** has been finding fair fluking from the bridge to the inlet. On its night runs, bluefishing has been a little erratic with good action on Friday and poor fishing on Saturday night. Captain Bert Blum aboard the **Jib VI** has been finding steady action with sea bass, porgies and blackfish on several nearby bay wrecks. He is sailing daily at 8AM on the bottom run. In addition the VI will be sailing for fluke on Saturdays and Sundays at 3PM.

Capt Roy on the charter boat **Blue Albatross II** called to say that his Saturday charter in the bay for the Ingraham Fishing Club of New Hyde Park hoisted 700 to 800 mixed

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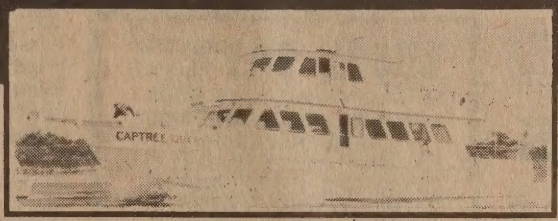

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H. Suarez of the N. Y. City Transit Authority displays the 4½ lb. fluke he landed recently aboard the Captree charter boat, "Blue Albatross II."

porgies, blacks, sea bass, blowfish, fluke and kingfish. Sea bass ran up to 1¾ lbs. and the fluke and king were individual specimens. Pool winning fish was a 2 lb. humpback porgy.

Roy also told us that Capt John Balitski's charter boat **Sea Ranger** had 2 makos for the week.

Capt Dennis of the charter boat **Flying Dutchman** called to say that Saturday's charter for Bill Jimenez and group from Gem Tool and Die, Babylon, with 22 people aboard had 78 fluke and a dozen decent sea bass to 1½ lbs. The boat worked the inlet on the north bar on both tides using spearing and squid. A 5 and a 7 lb. fluke was among the day's catch. It was a great day with perfect drifting conditions.

BABYLON

From **Charlie's Fishing Station,** Margaret reported tiderunner weakfish being taken on live snappers at the lighthouse. Some fluke being taken by boatmen in the inlet on sand eels, killies and squid. Blackfish and sea bass providing good action around the Kismet Reef and still plenty of snappers in the bay.

Ralph of **Augie's Bait and Tackle** relayed the big news about Ted Freund's 457 lb. blue marlin taken aboard his own boat the Irish Faker. The huge billfish, which is very likely the largest blue marlin to ever come through Fire Island Inlet, was taken at the northwest edge of the Hudson Canyon along with 3 bigeye tuna and one yellowfin tuna. The tuna ran to 147 lbs. The Babylon Tuna Club boat Blue Water made a canyon run and returned with 12 tuna in the 130 to 140 lb. class. Both the Happy Hooker and the Miss Marian returned home with wahoo in the cockpits. Ralph reported plenty of false albacore along with some dolphin in 80' to 100' of water.

Members of Fire Island Lodge #636 with a load of blues taken at Montauk aboard the charter boat "King Wayne."

Bigger albacore out in 150'. Bluefishing slowed over the weekend, but weakfishing picked up this past week with big fish being livelined at the lighthouse and lots of small weaks being taken on squid strips down off Heckscher. Blackfish up to 5 lbs. now plentiful on local bay wrecks. Most are in the 1 to 2 lb. class however.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

SEAFORD

At **Wanser's Tackle Shop**, Lon told us that fluke are still being taken in Sloop Channel and in the vicinity of the inlet. Flounder have made a good showing at the 3rd Bridge, the Meadowbrook Bridge and Zachs Bay. Worms work best on the flounder. Sea bass, sand porgies and blowfish combine to make for a good mixed bag for bottom fishermen in the area. Weakfish continue to be taken at the bridges. Fish up to 14 lbs. taken this week on sand worms and live snappers. Blues trolled at the inlet and outside on umbrella rigs and plenty of false albacore in the vicinity of the NA buoy. Big snappers still in good supply and fair crabbing in the deep water drains.

Capt Eddie's Fishing Station says that fluke and sand porgies are still being taken by his rental boats. Boats are averaging 8 to 10 fluke a boat. No flounders being caught as yet. The fluke and sand porgies are being located in Great Island Channel, Massapequa Cove and at the bridges.

John at **Pop's Fishing Station** tells us that the fishing continues to be good with catches of fluke, snappers, sea bass, porgies, blowfish and blueclaw crabs making up a mixed bag. They are starting to see the first signs of fall flounder. Harry Beckman of Westchester and son John, and Hugh Lennon got 7 fluke up to 3½ lbs. along with blowfish and assorted snappers and sea bass. Harry Carmosin and Larry Gromback boated a 5¾ lb. fluke between the 2nd and 3rd Wantagh bridges. Karen DeVito and Jim Durante took husbands Tom and John fishing and got 11 keeper fluke up to 4 lbs. fishing the east side of the Wantagh Bridge on killies and squid.

BELLMORE

The Singing Dog at **Merrick Tackle** sings to us of tuna from 400 to 800 lb. brutes at the Mud Hole on chum and whole fish bait. Blues at Cholera, some fish over 18 lbs. on Saturday. This is bait and chum in the daytime.

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Some albies and bonito mixed in. Lots of 8 to 10 pounders were weighed in Saturday. Flounder has become good in Swift Creek off the Houses on blood worms. Chumming is a big help. Lots of small blacks, sea bass and sand porgies all around the Bay. The winner of the $25 gift certificate was West Islip angler Harry Gugler.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** tells of some okay fluking this week at the Golf Course and at Merrick Point. Many boats were scoring with fluke while anchoring and bouncing bait on the bottom without even chumming. How about that, fluke fans. Lots of snappers around in the larger sizes now on small tins and small bait fish. A few small flounder starting but really nothing to crow about as yet. Small sea bass at the Meadowbrook Bridge and the Wantagh Bridge. An estimated 40 lb. striper was brought to the boat by one local hotshot on a live bunker but the fish made good his escape at the last moment.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station reports good crabbing on the weekend in Middle and Baldwin Bays. Great snapper action in the canals of Middle Bay. A few flounder, sea bass and porgies on clam or sand worm at buoys 17 and 19 in Reynold's Channel. A few fluke are also being picked in Reynold's on squid and sand eels.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

FREEPORT

Ronnie at **Sea Isle Sport Center** relayed word of giant tuna breaking loose at the Mud Hole this past week. Ronnie's having his hands full keeping anglers' stripped reels filled with line. As for the inshore fishing, Ronnie knew some fluke are still being taken in Swift Creek and at the same area along with Merrick Bay has been providing some good flounder catches.

Freeport Boatmen's Association reports that most of the fleet fished Cholera both Saturday and Sunday and catches were good both days with Saturday being the better of the two. On Sunday **Mistress II** fished five miles south of Cholera and baited a hammerhead shark which was 11' in length and ran 300 lbs. On the rod was attorney Ben Rubinstein of Westchester, who fought the fish for

25 minutes before the hook pulled loose. Blues are a still a solid number.

Capt Mike of the **Capt Lou Fleet** reports excellent flounder fishing all week on both his half-day and full-day boats. Harry Wells of Woodside fishing Thursday and Friday had 70 flounder for the two days combined. On Friday's trip Harold Kelly of Wantagh bagged 42 flounder. Saturday saw regular Herb Schwartz of Long Beach boat 38 keepers. Four year old Jennifer Ciaramitaro of Levittown boated 12 flounder. On Sunday Israel Garcia of Woodside had 50 flounder. David Rothman and Nap Suarez of Kew Gardens had 60 flatties between them. Largest flounder of the week was a 2 pounder. The boat is working Swift Creek, Reynold's Channel and various other back creeks with worm and clam. The boat also had 7 fluke and lots of sea bass, porgies and big blowfish for the week.

Capt Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin Fleet** reports that the **BF II and III** had good bluefishing at the beginning of the week South Southeast of Jones. Night blues were also very good south of Jones and also SW of Jones. Wednesday they had a great day trip at Cholera on bait and chum with blues to 12 lbs. Weekend bluefishing was pretty good also. The fluking is improving west of the Inlet and the pool fluke for the week hit the 4 lb. mark. Largest blue of the week aboard the fleet was an 18½ pounder taken by Brooklyn angler Elizabeth Leto.

The half-day flounder boat **Capt Bill** reports that he's been catching small flounder and sea bass along with mixed size porgies and blackfish in various local spots. Big fish of the week was a 4 lb. trigger fish, topped by a 4½ lb. blackfish which took the pool Friday. The flounder fishing is definitely improving. Sizes however are still on the small side. As the water cools off and the sea robins leave, the floundering will get stronger and stronger. Lots of tiny blowfish around which is a great sign for next year's blowfish catches. We of course urge anyone catching these baby blowfish to return them to the water after carefully removing the hook. On a bluefish charter Saturday, the boat had 80 blues and 10 albies on bait around Cholera.

The **Capt. Al** tells us that he's had an excellent Friday, Saturday and Sunday on bluefish and weakfish fishing from the NB to the Sisters. High hook Saturday was 21 fish. A total of 350 to 400 mixed blues and weaks came aboard Saturday. All week long it has been either chumming or just jigging and chasing, depending on the day, conditions, and how the fish were feeding. Sunday it was all chumming and hook bait and fares that fished averaged 12 to 14 fish a man with a few albacore thrown in. This was at the Sisters. Saturday it was chase and jig all day. Al says he's ready for anything and is loaded everyday with jigs and tins of chum, anything that will put fish in the boat

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for the customers. The boat had over 200 fish on Sunday.

Capt Richie of the **Starstream II** says that from now on, the boat will be chumming and baiting bluefish in areas less than 1 hr. from the dock. The night trips have been fishing close in and scoring with good catches. Chumming and baiting is an easier way to fish. Catches of blues from 3 to 8 lbs. on chum with a few bonito and albies mixed in has been the name of the game all week. Richie calls what he is going to do now "Backyard fishing."

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports sea bass and sand porgies plentiful over the weekend all along Reynold's Channel to buoy 19. Also some good fluke on the flats and at the mouth of the Inlet on squid and large spearing. Blacks on fiddlers at the Meadowbrook Bridge. Some flounders in the flats on worms. Paul Balgassano of S. Ozone Park caught 8 fluke and several sea bass. James Koniaski and Tom McKoughlin of Richmond Hill had 6 fluke and 40 sea bass, plus some porgies and sea bass.

Capt Dennis of the charter boat **Marie III** tells us that Friday night's charter for Mr. Walsh and group, fishing Cholera had a fair pick of blues from 3 to 5 lbs. The pool fish went 12 lbs. and the whole catch was on bait. Saturday's day trip for George Malvese and Co. lead by John Hagerstrom had a very good catch at Cholera. High hook was Bill Eisenberg with 34 blues. The pool was won by Bill Balkui with a 15 pounder. This was Bill's first time bluefishing and he ended up with 7 fish. Fish kept coming all day long from 1 to 3 on at a time on bait and chum. They also had roughly a dozen bonito and ablies up to 12 lbs. The catch averaged out to 3 to 15 fish a man. Sunday's charter for Bob Abrams and group of Long Beach fished the Meadowbrook Bridge, Swift Creek and other local spots, for sea bass up to 2 lbs., flounder to 1½ lbs., 1 fluke and a mess of porgies. This was on squid and clam on the flood. Dennis says he is booking giant tuna trips for the Mud Hole and that he also has Saturday, Sept. 27th available.

ISLAND PARK

The word from **Beckman's Tackle Shop** was some flounder being taken in Swift Creek and near the Meadowbrook Bridge. Decent fluke action around the inlet and good fishing over at Ambrose Channel for bigger fish. Combo baits working best on the flatfish. At the Tin Can Grounds and off of Coney Island, trollers and jiggers are taking a mixture of blues, weaks, and albacore. Snappers still in the area according to Charlie, who also relayed word of wild giant tuna action at the Mud Hole. One boatman he spoke with told of dropping an estimated 1000 pounder after having

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	2:20	3:00	3:25	3:55	2:50	3:20	4:30	4:45	5:45	6:05	6:05	6:25	2:45	3:15	9/18
FRI.	3:25	4:05	4:30	5:00	4:05	4:35	5:30	5:45	6:45	7:05	7:05	7:30	3:50	4:15	9/19
SAT.	4:35	5:10	5:30	6:00	5:20	5:40	6:25	6:40	7:55	8:10	8:05	8:25	4:45	5:10	9/20
SUN.	5:40	6:10	6:25	6:50	6:20	6:40	7:15	7:35	8:55	9:15	9:00	9:25	5:40	6:05	9/21
MON.	6:35	7:00	7:20	7:40	7:15	7:35	8:05	8:25	9:55	10:15	9:50	10:15	6:30	6:55	9/22
TUE.	7:25	7:50	8:10	8:30	8:00	8:20	8:50	9:15	10:45	11:05	10:40	11:05	7:20	7:40	9/23
WED.	8:15	8:40	8:55	9:20	8:50	9:10	9:40	10:05	11:35	–	11:30	11:55	8:05	8:30	9/24
THUR.	9:00	9:25	9:45	10:10	9:40	10:00	10:30	10:55	12:00	12:20	–	12:20	8:55	9:20	9/25

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

9/19	6:44	7:03
9/20	6:45	7:01
9/21	6:46	6:59
9/22	6:47	6:57
9/23	6:48	6:56
9/24	6:49	6:55
9/25	6:50	6:53

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
9/9	9/17	9/24	9/1

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	—	6:20	12:15	6:50
Fri.	12:30	7:10	1:05	7:35
Sat.	1:20	8:00	1:50	8:30
Sun.	2:10	8:50	2:45	9:20
Mon.	3:00	9:45	3:35	10:10
Tues.	3:55	10:35	4:25	11:05
Wed.	4:45	11:25	5:20	11:55
Thurs.	5:35	—	6:10	12:25

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it within 20' of the boat three different times.

LONG BEACH

Bernie Haag reporting for the **Long Beach Sports Marina** said that flounder fishing has improved in recent days. Jim Newman, Ed Tronolone and Dennis Whittman totalled 40 nice flatties, along with some sea bass while Phil Robinson and Jim McMann put away 25 flatties in a half day of fishing. Boat catches were made east of the Atlantic Beach bridge on worms. A few bass and large blues being trolled on wire line and bucktails near the Silver Point jetty and plenty of snappers being taken on small Kastmasters by pier fishermen.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Skippy of **Skippy's Tackle Shop** in East Rockaway offered additional confirmation of the giant tuna action at the Mud Hole. He said that everyone on the grounds at least hooks up with a fish and that anglers have been stopping by the shop to replenish supplies of 130 lb. test line being stripped by the big horse mackerel.On the inshore scene, Skippy said that flounder are getting started but small and snappers are still around in good supply. Nice sized fluke continue to be taken at Ambrose for those who know what they're doing. Many of these fish are in the 3-5 lb. class. Blackfish being taken now at local bridges and jetties on fiddler crabs.

Al at **Reynold's Reef Fishing Station** says excellent catches have been made all week long on fluke, flounder, snappers and blacks at the Atlantic Beach Bridge east to buoy 1 and west of the Coast Guard Station. The Atlantic Beach Rod and Gun Club Bluefish Tournament on the weekend was won by a 12 lb. 15 oz. chopper caught by Jessie York fishing aboard Fred Hill's boat Four Queens. Runner up was Fred Kayden with a 9¼ lb. blue fishing aboard Tony Royal's Emme.

Capt Ronnie Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** called to tell of lots of action and hook-ups at the Mud Hole on big tuna. Ronnie heard of a 1220 pounder for a NJ charter boat. On Sunday 200-600 pounders were taken. A lot of tuna were landed on Sunday including one 900 plus lbs. and 1000 plus lbs. The boat's regular bluefish trips have been outstanding in quantities of fish caught working the NY Bight with a mixture of albies, bontio and weaks mixed in.

JAMAICA BAY

Artie of **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** reported that both snappers and porgies continue to entertain anglers from the area bridges. Spearing working best for the snappers, while worms are the ticket for the porgies. Crabs have thinned out considerably according to Artie.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt Walt Wiegand of the **Flamingo III** tells of a good solid weeks fishing locally in the channels, Sandy Hook and off the Jersey coast. Walt says he had good solid bluefish catches with good weakfish participation on all trips sailed all through the weekend. Saturday saw over 100 weakfish mixed in with the bluefish catch. Sunday roughly 50 weakfish were mixed in. The weaks were running 4 to 8 lbs. and the blues 2 to 5 lbs. Walt says he anticipates a very strong fall run of bluefish as the big choppers come marching down the beach. All fishing this week has been jig fishing. Bonito and albies have been showing but have been spotty. With the cooler fall weather coming momentarily, the skippers says the best of the year's fishing is yet to come. Walt also passes on the news that L.I.F. staffer Al Ristori fishing on the Belmar charter boat **OlSalty** skippered by Capt. Bob Pisano hooked and landed a 1022 lb. bluefin tuna. This has set we hear some type of brand new NJ state record. That a boy Al!

Capt Tom on the **Elsie K III** reports that he has been having good fluking all week long. The fluke are schooling up now says Tom and he is hitting them in the channels with sand eels working best. High hooks have been in the teens and twenties each day. Fish are going up to 10 lbs. Catches are averaging 10 to 15 keepers a man, and the fluking should be good for the next few weeks. Both tides are working. The boat will be making tuna trips to the Mud Hole each Thursday in October with a 20 man limit. These trips are by reservation only and the fare is $60 a man.

Capt Tom Farrell of the charter boat **Dad's Dream** called to say that Saturday night's bluefish trip saw 40 choppers to 13 lbs. go in the box on bait and chum. Action was at 17 Fathoms and the trip was for Tom Gallagher and group. Twelve year old first time Dean Marmo had a 12 pounder and completely flipped out.

STATEN ISLAND

From **Santos Sport Shop**, Lenny reported that fishing for blues and weaks continues very good in the Princess Bay Channel and at buoys 12 and 14. Fish range from 8 to 12 lbs. and are being taken on either bunker chunks or being trolled on Lupo baby bunker spoons. Very consistent action and everyone who fishes the area scores, said Len. Weakfish also in Great Kills Harbor where they have been showing a preference for sand worms. Real good fluke action at Ambrose with lots of 4 and 5 lb. fish making up the catches. Porgies, lafayettes and snappers keeping anglers busy in the harbors.

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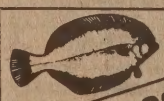

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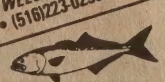

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PECONICS & GARDINERS

★ BEST BET ★
PORGIES

GREENPORT

Capt Roddy DeLisle of the charter boat **Prowler II** says the fishing has been great this week. Tuesday's charter for six men resulted in 38 fluke of the keeper variety taken at the Ruins on the flood. They also had 39 blues at Pine Point Rip off Plum Island on diamond jigs. Friday's trip for the Chicago based Elgin Leach Corp had 62 blues jigged up in the Race. Sunday's charter for David Tunnell of Philadelphia and 5 pals, slaughered porgies. Rod says that this is the best porgy trip of the year and each member of the party had his own huge cooler full. Fishing was in the Sound and both tides produced mediums and jumbos.

Art White of **A. P. White Bait Shop** reported that both the **Brand X** and the **Peconic Star** enjoyed a super weekend with the porgies fishing in the vicinity of Gardiner's Island. The porgies are all big and provided the finest kind of action all week long. Pigeon Rip has come alive with bluefish and blackfishing has been good at Gull Island, Plum Island and in Plum Gut. Fiddler crabs or green crabs work best for the tautogs. Some good flounder scores made at Petty's Bight this week as the fall flatfish season looks to be getting under way.

SOUTHOLD

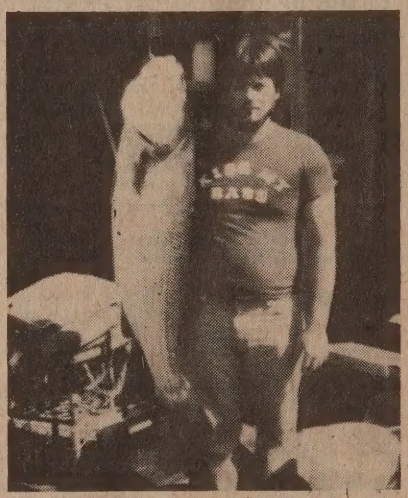
Ace at the **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** says that there are some bigger porgies in the bay now with buoy 17 and drifting back and forth at South Ferry, producing some porgies up to 1½ lbs. Most are ¾ pounders however and lots of sand porgies as well. Snappers are also swarming in the Bay and some weakfish are still around in the 90' hole just off the station. These few weaks ran 7 to 11 lbs. on squid on a flood tide. At the Orient station very good catches of porgies at Petty's Bight and in front of the Orient station, fish ¾ to 2½ lbs., though most fish running from 1 to 1½ lbs. Blacks at the Lighthouse and at the rocks between the station and the first set of rocks at Petty's Bight. A 7½ lb. black was weighed in on Saturday. Blacks are hitting fiddlers and green crab. There are still flounders being caught at the last set of traps east of the Orient station, fish from ¾ to 1 lb. Bigger flounders are around the Point on the south side though not in great numbers. Accidental fluke are being taken by porgy fishermen at Petty's Bight. Blues are being trolled at the Gut on umbrellas and diamond jigged in the Race.

NEW SUFFOLK

Phil at **Capt Marty's Fishing Station** tells of some really good porgy fishing this week with buoy 25 and Rose Grove the hot areas. Phil says skiffs are taking big buckets full of mixed porgies on both tides. He stressed that there are lots of fish around. Four lb. class weakfish being taken on squid tipped hi/lo rigs in the Rose Grove area. Tons of snappers and tiny weakfish in the bay. Please return the small weakfish, fellas. Quie a few big blowfish at the Black Can and buoy 23. A couple of fluke and small blackfish are also being pulled.

NOYAC

Noyac Marina reports a dozen porgies in the 2 plus pound range were kept by one skiff customer fishing buoy 17 on sand worms Friday. Dick Elliott had 4 weakfish in the 3 lb. class Sunday off the Monastery on squid. Lots of snappers and plenty of porgies of mixed sizes around.



This 43 lb. striper was taken aboard the charter boat "Sundance II" during the July moon.

SAG HARBOR

Chris at **Bayview Fishing Station** says that lots of porgies are being caught at Cedar Point, at buoy 4, fish averaging 1 lb. Buoy 13 has twice as many fish around it but they are half the size. Both tides are working. Some weaks at Cedar Point and at South Ferry on drifted squid. Blues and some fluke at the Ruins off Gardiner's on trolled umbrellas.

The **Wilhelric** reports fantastic porgy fishing. Thursday was the slowest day but most fares still had fish in the high 40s. Saturday saw Chuck Flesher of City Island take 87 porgies. He returned Sunday to gather up 90 more porgies and 11 sea bass. Sunday a lot of sea bass and porgies were brought up. Roy Hue of Mt. Vernon had 120 porgies and 20 sea bass. Wade Little took the pool with 75 porgies and 23 sea bass. Sea bass are running from small to mediums, up to 1½ lbs. Sam Taylor had 85 porgies and 29 sea bass. Porgies are mixed, from the smallest to the biggest at Gardiner's. Due to the superosity (?) of the porgy fishing, the fluke trips have been suspended for the season and the boat will be porgy plucking everyday.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★
BLUES

ROCKY POINT

Stan at the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** relayed word of big blues under the bunker schools in Mt. Sinai Harbor but only at daybreak. Trollers and jiggers take fish in 60' of water between buoys 9 and 11. Smaller blues from 2 to 4 lbs. off of buoy 11 and the pink house. Good action with 1/2 to 1 lb. porgies at all the shoal areas and blackfish starting to show with reports of a 9 lber. being taken during the week. Big snappers spread throughout the area.

SELDEN

Kenny at **Angler's Den** says there's excellent fishing in the Sound, plenty of blues from 2 to 14 lbs. with the bigger fish around when the wind blows from the north on diamond jigs and umbrellas. Port Jeff and Mt. Siani harbors are loaded with bunker so you can expect to have blues in the harbors shortly. Lots of flounder, porgies, a few blacks and tons of snappers in Mt. Siani and Port Jeff Harbors. Lots of snappers and blacks in all the rocky areas. A few stripers have been taken along the beaches on all types of Rebels. Some 4 to 5 lb. weaks with a couple of 8 or 9 pounders diamond jigged off the Pink House at Mt. Sinai Harbor under the bluefish. Some small flounder starting to show. The water temperature remains elevated in the Sound. The store is giving bow hunter safety courses Tuesday and Thursday evenings. You much call and reserved a spot if interested.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station tells of lots of ½ to 2 lb. porgies all around the rocks at Miller Place and Rocky Point. Both tides are producing fish in good numbers with the hours around low water best. One to 7 lb. blues plus

★SHEEPSHEAD BAY★

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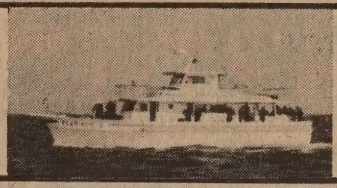

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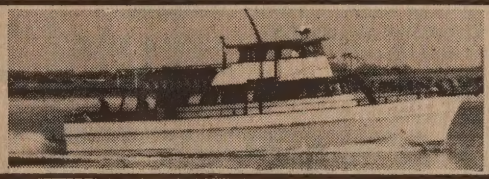

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PORT JEFFERSON

Tim at **Caraftis Fishing Station** reports very good porgy fishing just outside the Inlet, at Wading River and all the rocky areas inside and outside the harbor. Generally porgies are all over the place, mixed sizes on clam and worm. Try buoys 11 and 9 as well as Crane Neck for 2 to 4 lb. blues. Middle Grounds is also a good bet. Diamond jigs and umbrellas have scored this week. There are also schools of 5 to 7 pounders and seperate schools of 10 to 15 pounders swimming about. Snappers are all over the place on shiners and small tin. A few fluke are being picked along the beaches on drifted squid.

KINGS PARK

O.K. Bait & Tackle tells us that bluefishing is still a good item just outside the bay on umbrellas and jigs for fish 5 to 12 lbs. Porgies remain good on squid and clam off Callahans up to medium size fish. Twelve inch snappers still blasting through the bay.

NORTHPORT

What is very possibly the largest brown trout ever recorded taken from some bonito between buoys 11 and 9 on umbrellas and diamond jigs. A 19 lb. blue accepted a bunker chunk and lived to regret it. The happy angler was Skip Davis of Mt. Sinai. A few fluke being taken on the flats outside the station on smelt and squid. Some flounder starting inside the harbor on sand worms. Plenty of snappers on spearing and tin.

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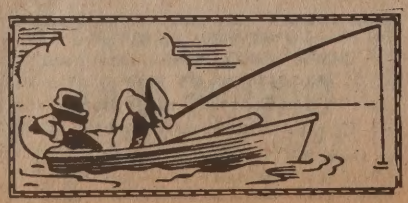

A live snapper, drifted in the rips off of Eaton's Neck, turned the trick for Mike Avondolio of Northport. His huge fluke checked in at 14 lbs. 12 oz. Photo courtesy of Bowman's Sporting Goods.

Long Island waters in modern times was weighed in by Tom Bowman of **Bowman's Sporting Goods** in Northport, Tom put a huge brown trout of 13 lbs. 9 oz. on the scale for Louis Aprile of Northport Monday morning. Lou caught the fish at 7PM on Sunday in the Nissequogue River state park on a large home-tied streamer and a 2 lb. tippet. Tom will be sending the photo along shortly and we will be publishing it among our news photos. As for the saltwater scene, Eatons Neck has been alive with 3-6 lb. bluefish for jiggers while bigger choppers are being taken at 11B. Blues in the 10-15 lb. class have been herding bunker off of Lloyds Point in the early morning hours. Very good porgie fishing at buoy 13, flounder and blackfish beginning to make an appearance, snappers all over and still a few fluke to be found on rough bottom at Eatons Neck.

HUNTINGTON

Capt Jim of the **Hi Hook** called to say that Tom and Cathy Kispert on a bottom run Saturday afternoon had humpback porgies, weakfish and flounder. Fares had up to 25 fish apiece. A Sunday morning charter for the Cinammon Cocktail Lounge of Huntington saw Rodger Risto, Mike and Jerry Rooney and world welterweight contender Danny Mizwesky, take blues, weaks and porgies with the blues going up to 14 lbs. The boat ended up with roughly 100 fish using herring, bait and chum for the blues and weaks.

Plenty of fish off of Eatons, according to George Valentine at **Four Winds Bait and Tackle**. Excellent action with 3 to 5 lb. blues on Tri-Fin tiger striped jigs with a tube teaser at buoy 13 and the obstruction buoy. Bigger choppers up to 12 lbs. at buoy 11B. During slack water umbrella rig trollers have an edge over the jiggers. Green, white or red tubes all working.

Four to 6 lb. weaks mixed with the blues during the evening hours at 13. Big blues from 12 to 15 lbs. showing up under the bunker schools in scattered areas during the early AM. Fish have been reported off of Sand City, Prices Bend and Cooper's Bluff. Some school bass from 6-10 lbs. in the rip at Eatons Neck on wire line and bucktails at daybreak. Excellent porgies from 1-2 lbs. along with a few blackfish. Snappers all over and a few flounder from 1/2 to 3/4 lbs. starting to stir.

The **Ever Ready** reports super bluefishing. Friday morning's trip saw Dick Giordano of Inwood take the pool with a 14½ lb. blue. John Collins of Huntington Station got a 17 lb. blue. Saturday morning's trip saw Tom Springman of Ridgewood and Jan Lehmann of Hicksville, tied for the pool with a pair of 10 lb. blues. Al Mezzo of Mt. Vernon was high hook with 19 choppers on the evening trip. Ray Weltman of Dix Hills took the pool for the 2nd week in a row with a nice weakfish. Sunday's bottom run had Dr. Grazziano catching his first blue. Al Shermer of East Northport was high hook with 15 blues. All fares loaded up. James Schiender of Greenlawn had 31 blues and 1 weakfish. Tony Hoeffer of Cold Spring Harbor had 18 blues and 2 weaks. On Sunday's afternoon run Delores Schmidt of Woodbury was high hook with 33 nice porgies.

GLEN COVE

From the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** Dave called the snapper fishing super and said that anglers have been filling buckets with 8'' to 10'' fish all week long. The fish have been showing a preference for bait rather than artificials in recent days. Both porgy and flounder fishing have improved, with Prybil Beach, Crescent Beach and Dosoris Creek the best bets. Occasional big blues in the 12 to 15 lb. class riding herd on the bunker schools in Hempstead Harbor.

NORTH SHORE WEST END
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BLUES

CITY ISLAND

Capt Joe of the **Ebb Tide** tells us that his passengers have been having very good porgy fishing with 3 lb. humpback porgies mixed in fishing in the middle of the Sound. Some flounders and blacks have also been mixed in and they are getting 2 to 3 fluke each day on the boat also. Saturday a double header fluke came up, a rarity. Lots of 10'' snappers around.

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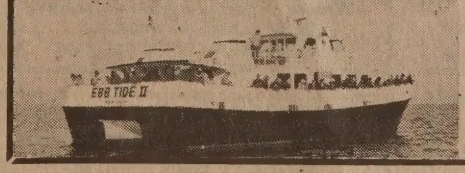

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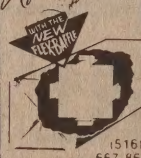

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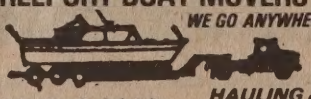

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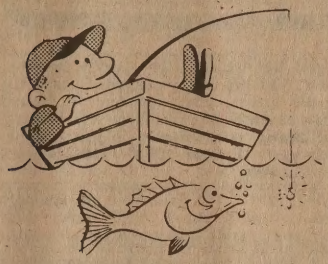
Greg at **City Island Bait and Tackle** reported that porgies and snappers still provide the bulk of the action for local anglers. Blackfish just getting started in the area with the best early season bets being the CBS tower and Execution Light. Bluefish are around but have been inconsistent this past week.



SURF REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

As we completed our usual round of calls on Monday morning, the most encouragement came from the stiff northeast breeze blowing across Shelter Island Sound. The promise of a cool front moving through our area, many surfmen will be looking for "things to start happening" as snappers and mullet being emptying out of our bays and harbors.

For those generous enough to want to contribute information for the column, please call me Sunday nights at 516-581-0077 or Monday mornings between 7:30 and 10:30 a.m. at 516-725-4200. As I have said in the past, it is not necessary to load your stringer in order to make a worthwhile contribution. A negative report can be as valuable as a positive one in terms of helping fellow casters narrow down their search for weaks, bass and blues.

South Shore

In the Staten Island area, casters were enjoying a good pick of blues in the 6-12 lb. class and weaks from 6-8 lbs. casting bunker chunks from the sand bar at the entrance to Great Kills Harbor. This point lies within the boundaries of Gateway National Park. Lenny of **Santos Sport Shop** who reported this action said that it is confined to nights only. Lenny also reported a few school bass being picked at Penny Beach and Cliff Street on sand worms and small buckails.

Artie of **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** in Jamaica Bay weighed in some impressive weakfish for Joe Ramano and Victor Abdia both Sunday and Monday mornings. On Sunday, the pair weighed in weaks of 8½ and 10 lbs., while on Monday the two biggest of the six that they landed checked in at 9½ and 14 lbs. They were all taken on bunker chunks fished from the South channel bridge on the first part of outgoing water. In addition to the weaks, Artie reported lots of small stripers including plenty of shorts around the bridges and although there are loads of bunker in the area, the big blues that were around last week have been absent in recent days.

A few school bass being taken on Rebels and RedFins from the Atlantic Beach jetty, according to Skippy of **Skippy's Tackle Shop** in East Rockaway. Action is confined to the hours between 6PM and 6AM.

Bernie Haag of Long Beach said he witnessed a few school bass taken by casters at West End. The fish were taken on poppers in the early AM. In addition to the small stripers, Lon Wanser told me from his shop that blues up to 5 and 6 lbs. have been providing pretty steady action for casters at West End. Most seem to be leaning towards the Kastmaster. One customer told Lon that a few weaks were taken on both the front and back sides of Fire Island this past week, but that's all the info he would divulge. I spent Thursday evening along Cedar Beach and at the adjacent Sore Thumb. Casters on the Thumb have been taking a few big weaks on live snappers fished on fish finder rigs off of the east face of the structure. One caster beached a 14 lb.

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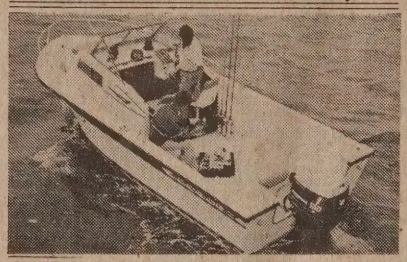

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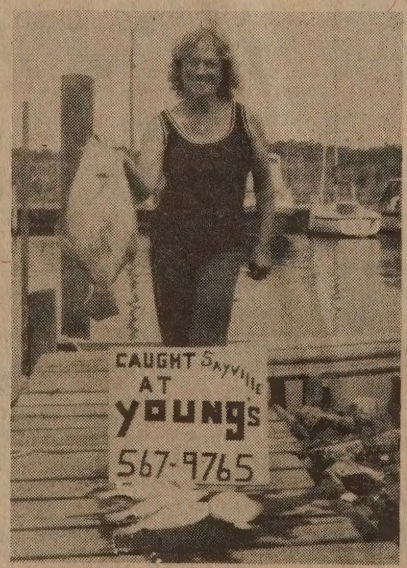


Helen McCormick displays the nice fluke she caught at buoy 13A on a killy and squid combo. Photo courtesy of Young's Fishing Station.

bluefish on a bunker chunk in front of the pavilion. He saw several schools of mullet working down the beach but nothing seemed to be disturbing them. Grass still seems to be a problem in this area particularly at the Thumb.

Both the east and west side of Moriches Inlet have been the scene of sporadic flurries of bluefish action. Two to five pound choppers come and go and are taken on tins.

Along the Shinnecock shore, Thom Speckenbach told me from his shop that the surf in his area was dead throughout the weekend. He spoke to several casters who fished throughout the night on Saturday and did absolutely nothing.

Johnny Kronuch relayed word from his Montauk emporium that a visiting tourist clicked with a 46 lb. striper Saturday morning near Hither Hills. There had been a flurry of weakfish action the evening before in the same area. Just before dark tins took a number of fish in the 4-6 lb. range. Nothing doing up front with the exception of an occasional weak or small bluefish. John saw a couple of small blues taken Friday evening at North Bar. Shagwong remained quiet again this week.

North Shore

Reports on the north shore were again tough to come by. The word "dead" seems to be a recurring description of the surf fishing for a long stretch of Sound shore between Glen Cove and North Fork beaches.

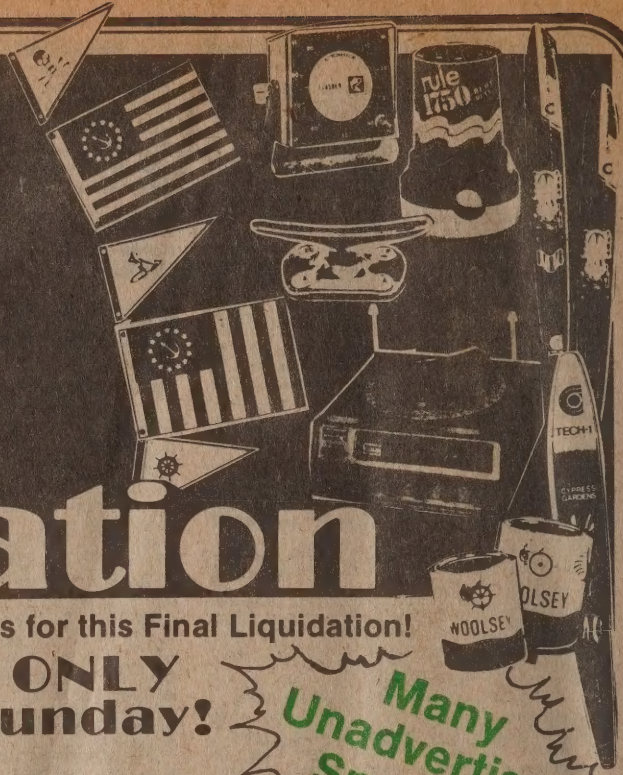
Greg at **City Island Bait and Tackle** reported sea bass and some blues up to 3 lbs. being taken on bunker chunks at Orchard Beach lagoon and Turtle Cove. Overall though he described the surf scene as pretty quiet. Last week's showing of big blues fizzled. While I had no reports between here and Greenport I have heard rumors from several source that were some action with big stripers in the Reeves Beach area over the past week or two. Anglers in the area are apparently going to great lengths to keep the lid on the action.

George Valentine of **Four Winds Tackle** in Huntington and Stan of the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** confirmed the slow surf action in their areas.

Out in Greenport, a few big bass taken along local beaches on eels, Re Rebels and RedFins. This according to Art White of **A. P. White Bait Shop**. He weighed fish of 38 and 40 lbs. over the weekend but the fish are being taken by regulars who are not saying much about where they're taking the fish.

S.T.P.A.

Final Marine Liquidation



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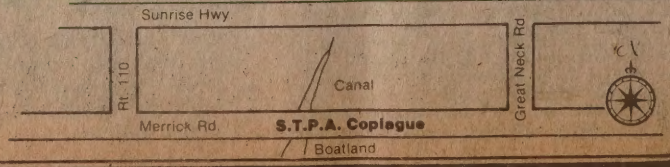
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